

# Mountain Proclamations

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

[www.mhfirstcongregational.org](http://www.mhfirstcongregational.org) March 2023 [churchinfo@mhfccucc.org](mailto:churchinfo@mhfccucc.org)

Volume 56 - Issue 3

## Pastor Deral's Office Hours

During lent, Pastor Deral's office hours will be 4 – 7 on **Wednesdays** due to the Lenten Potluck and Study. As always, he is available by phone or email, and yes, he does text. [REDACTED]

## Lenten Disciplines

### *Wednesday Lenten Potluck and Study*

Beginning on **Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6 p.m.** we will have our first Lenten Potluck in 3 years!!! Bring a covered dish to share. Beverages and bread will be provided.

Following the potluck, at approximately 6:30 p.m. we will begin our Lenten Study on **The Path of the Passion; Jesus' 7 Words from the Cross.** There are no study materials required; Pastor Deral will supply everything we need.

These two events will run from **Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> through Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.**

### *One Great Hour of Sharing*

This year's theme is "It's Time to Share"

"So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all."

**Galatians 6:9-10 [The Message]**

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery

of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Click here to visit the OGHS webpage on [ucc.org https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/](https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/)

The One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten Offering will be taken on **Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.** There are no Giving Calendars for suggested giving this year, but coin boxes will be available should you wish to use one for your own giving ideas.

### *The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering*

The Annual Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering will also begin **Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** and will conclude on **Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

This very different 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 taken to El-Ada for distribution to the disadvantaged in our area.

There will be a hamper by the bulletin table for you to place your offerings in.

## 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 2 – April 6.** Office hours are from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday

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 Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Email is always welcome for the dedications – [churchinfo@mhfccucc.org](mailto:churchinfo@mhfccucc.org)

Forms for dedications will be on the bulletin table at the back of the Sanctuary, 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 "*To God Be the Glory*". The Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting for March will be on **Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m.** The hostesses will be Doreen Solum and Vickie Armstrong.

### *Bible Study*

#### **NOTE THE MEETING TIME CHANGE.**

Women's Bible Study is up and running! The book is *Grace* by Max Lucado. We will meet on **the 1st and 3rd Thursday at 1 p.m. March's classes will be Thursdays March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.** All women of the church are invited to attend.

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](mailto:churchinfo@mhfccucc.org)

### Saturday night, March 11<sup>th</sup>

Daylight Savings begins on **Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**. Be sure to mark your calendars to turn your clocks **ahead** one hour Saturday night before you go to bed.

### 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 Calvary Chapel 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.

### Thank You

#### *Scouts!*

A big "Thank You" to Cub Pack 57, Troop 57, and Venture Crew 57 for joining us on Scout Sunday, Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. It was wonderful having all of you with us.

#### *To Joe and Mildred McNeal*

Thank you, Joe, for the inspiring talk you delivered so well before the Call to Worship on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. So much to be thankful for and to give thought to.

Also a very gracious, and full, thank you to Joe and Mildred McNeal and the Black History Committee for a wonderful Fellowship Hour.

They pulled out all the stops – there was coleslaw, potato salad, pulled pork sandwiches with 3 kinds of sauce available, Joe BQ beans, and, of course, cake.

Many hands make light work and we also wish to thank Ann and Curtis Carlin, Rick, Sherry, and Eddie Bush, Jennifer Andersen, Lee Wright, Grace Townsend, Frank and Mollie Marsh, Richard Broemeling, and Mildred McNeal for being there to help Joe do what Joe does best – take care of us all. Please know that if you helped and you did not get mentioned here, it was a fault of the memory, not the heart.

#### *Earth Quake donations - \$375*

Many thanks to all who thought of those far away. As a church, we collect \$375 toward the Turkey/Syria Earthquake relief fund. Thank you.

#### *Shrove Tuesday Thank You*

We had our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner after a 3-year hiatus due to COVID. We had 37 people present. A great time was had by all who attended.

I would like to thank those who took the time to help with the cooking, setting up and serving. Thank you to Sherry Bush, Heidi Harris, Rick Parks, Lee Wright, Richard & Susan Broemeling, Ann Carlin, Sandy O'Connell, Nadine Roberts, Curtis Carlin, Linda Ramsey, and Linda Thomsen for the awesome job they did getting everything ready, served and cleaned.

*Sincerely yours,  
Curtis Carlin  
Social Committee Chair*

#### *From the Andersens*

We are very grateful for all the support the church family has given us during Ken's recent medical issues. All the cards, calls and offers of meals were very heartwarming to us. Ken is definitely on the mend. Thank you all for your prayers and support.

*Our Love in Christ –  
Ken and Jennifer*

### Upcoming Events

#### *Easter Breakfast*

With our Lenten season beginning we need to start gathering items for our Easter breakfast, which is Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. This will be our first Easter breakfast since COVID hit, so we would love to have a great turnout. There are lists in the fellowship hall for those who would like to donate the items needed, and for those (men only

please) who would be interested in cooking the food on Easter Sunday. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with Curtis Carlin either at church, through email or over the phone.

*Sincerely,*  
*Curtis Carlin*  
*Easter Breakfast Chairman*

### *Spring Clean*

The Annual Spring Clean will be **Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 Schedule*

**Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Palm Sunday and the conclusion of One Great Hour of Sharing and The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering. Worship is at 11 a.m.

No Lenten potluck and study on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**No Maundy Thursday worship**

**Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** – 7 p.m. Worship service

**Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**  
7 a.m. Sunrise Service  
8 a.m. Easter Breakfast with Easter Egg hunt afterwards  
11 a.m. Worship

### *Annual Rummage Sale*

The Women's Fellowship Annual Rummage Sale will be on **Friday, April 28, from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday, April 29 from 8 a.m. to noon.** Set up will be on April 27th from 1 – 4 p.m. Please note: set-up schedule is subject to change

Get those closets, garages, storage units, attics and kitchen cabinets cleaned out for a good cause and bring all that good, clean, sellable stuff to the church and let them get rid of it for you.

Please remember, no tires or old television sets.

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

### *Red Cross Blood Drive*

Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>** for the Red Cross Blood Drive being held here at

Mountain Home First Congregational. You can go to the Red Cross website to sign up or sign up on their app if you have it.

Questions? Contact Rick Parks.

### *Pilgrim Cove Camp*

Below is a list of 2023 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](mailto:manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org).

We look forward to seeing many of you at one or more programs in 2023.

**Idaho Association Meeting**, April 21 – 22, 2023, UCC members, cost TBA

**Spring Work Weekend**, May 26 – 29, 2023, all, cost – FREE

**Summer Youth Camp**, July 9 – 14, 2023, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, cost - \$350

**Family Camp**, July 28 – 30, 2023, anyone, cost – \$110

**Women's Retreat**, July 31 – Aug 3, 2023, adult women, cost – \$185

**Grandparent's Camp**, October 6 – 8, 2023, Grandparent/grandchild, cost – \$120

**Fall Work Weekend**, October 27 – 29, 2023, anyone, cost – FREE

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

### *Directory Update*

Phil and Linda Miller  
1881 SW Challis Drive  
Mountain Home, ID  
83647-2620

### *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 (Linda Thomsen)

5 – Susan Walker  
12 – Gail Banner  
19 – Polly Sanders  
26 – Betty Ashcraft

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR Sign-up Sheet)

5 – Barb and Roger Fogleman  
12 – Curtis Carlin  
19 – Becky Hall  
26 – Allen and Heidi Harris

### USHERS (Heidi Harris)

### FLOWERS (Sign-up sheet)

5 – Gail Banner  
12 – Vickie Armstrong  
19 – Frankie Guerre  
26 –

### PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

### COMMUNION (Linda Thomsen)

## *From Pastor Deral*

We are approaching the Season of Lent. But what does it mean? What is Lent's significance? What should it mean for us as Christian believers? What's the point?

Our English word 'Lent' is a short form of an Old English word *lencten* – which means "spring season". But for us it means so much more than simply the anticipated arrival of warmer weather! This season is traditionally observed from Ash Wednesday to the evening of Holy Saturday; a period of 40 days, excluding Sundays.

At its heart, the Lenten Season is a period of grief in recognizing our sin before a Holy and just God. As we progress toward the great celebration of Easter, our preparation involves our own time of daily prayer, Bible reading and devotions, reflection on ways to simplify our lives in self-denial, and various means of giving sacrificially. As a congregation we want to be praying for God's leading and direction in the search and call for our pastoral leadership.

Early Christianity records the tradition of *fasting* before celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.

In 339 A.D. Athanasius wrote that the Lenten fast was a 40 day fast that "the entire world" observed. Augustine wrote that, "Our fast at any time is voluntary, but during Lent, we sin if we do not fast."

We understand that fasting is a Lenten option; not a required ritual, but one that is spiritually significant. If you decide to observe a fast during this time here are a few guidelines:

- Fasting is not a hunger strike; nor a diet in order to lose a few pounds. It's not some action that can be used to manipulate God. Fasting is not a means of merit or earning things from God. It's not something for really "spiritual" people.
- Fasting has been called a "blessed subtraction". For a believer who wants a more intimate relationship with his/her Lord, it's a call to obedience. The central idea of fasting is the voluntary denial of an otherwise normal function, for the sake of a more disciplined, or deeper, spiritual activity.
- When we look at its practice, it first requires just plain, good, common sense. A person would not enter into a fast if there are medical or health or dietary reasons that would prohibit it. And remember, our bodies need water. Just as a normal requirement we ought to drink 8 glasses of water a day. Water is not a violation of a normal fast.
- There are different types of fasting: breakfast to breakfast; lunch to lunch; a fast that allows fruit juice; a three-meal fast; a weekly fast; or possibly one that's longer.
- Also, a fast can be undertaken in other ways: taking time away from the electronic mainstay of daily life – our smart phone! Fasting might be going through an entire day, or longer, without reading or hearing anything about the news. It might mean no TV or radio or CD's – in order to talk with God. All of our pleasures, diversions, and entertainments are subject to "blessed subtractions" when the Spirit nudges us in that direction.

Individually, as families, and as a congregation we want to observe Lent as a time to focus on God; to reveal the things that control us or that we're clinging to as substitutes for a true relationship with God; to seek the core of our spiritual priorities; and taking hold of the power the Lord provides. From the first moments of waking in the morning to our drifting off to sleep, Lent reminds us to slow down and pay the best kind of attention, in our ordinary days, to the loving God Who comes to us in Jesus and dies for us on a Cross!

- Pastor Deral

# March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4 p.m. Pastor Deral's hours 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study	2 1 p.m. Women's Bible Study 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir	3 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	4 7- 9 p.m. AA
<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> 5 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion <b>Diaconate Board Mtg.</b>	6 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	7	8 4 p.m. Pastor Deral's hours 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study	9 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir	10 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship	11 7- 9 p.m. AA <b>SET CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR AT BEDTIME</b>
<i>Third Sunday of Lent</i> 12 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship <b>DST BEGINS</b>	13 6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	14 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voting (?)	15 1 p.m. PEO mtg. 4 p.m. Pastor Deral's hours 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study	16 1 p.m. Women's Bible Study 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 7- 9 p.m. AA
<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> 19 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship <b>Christian Ed. Mtg.</b>	20 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	21	22 4 p.m. Pastor Deral's hours 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study	23 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir	24	25 7- 9 p.m. AA
<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> 26 NO Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship <b>Church Council Mtg.</b>	27	28	29 4 p.m. Pastor Deral's hours 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study	30 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir	31	
		←----Spring -----		Break -----→		

## April 2023 SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9 a.m. Spring Clean 7- 9 p.m. AA
<i>Palm Sunday</i> 2 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion <b>Diaconate Board mtg.</b>	3 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	4	5 No potluck or study 7 p.m. PEO	6 1 p.m. Women's Bible Study 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir <b>No Maundy Thursday Serv.</b>	7 Good Friday 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters <b>7 p.m. Good Friday Service</b>	8 7- 9 p.m. AA
<i>Easter</i> 9 7 a.m. Sunrise Service 8 a.m. Breakfast & Egg Hunt 11 a.m. Worship	10 6:30 p.m. Trustees mtg. 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	11	12	13 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir	14 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship	15 7- 9 p.m. AA
16 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship <b>Christian Ed</b>	17 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	18	19 1 p.m. PEO	20 1 p.m. Women's Bible Study 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir	21	22 7- 9 p.m. AA
23 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship <b>Church Council Mtg.</b>	24 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	25	26 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive	27 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Rummage Sale set-up 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir	28 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Rummage Sale	29 8 a.m. – noon Annual Rummage Sale
30 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship						