

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org **April 2023**

churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Volume 56 - Issue 4

These Days

There are a few *These Days* devotional booklets left for April through June are available on the bulletin table.

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

Easter Breakfast

With our Lenten season almost over we need to start gathering items for our Easter breakfast, which is Sunday, April 9th. 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

Candy, Please!

But, no plastic eggs!! Christian Education is asking for small, **individually wrapped** candies that will fit in the plastic Easter eggs *they already have*.

Please bring your wrapped, small candies to the church on any Sunday between now and Palm Sunday or drop them by the church office during office hours – Monday through Thursday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Spring Clean

Our annual Spring Clean before Holy Week will be on **Saturday, April 1st beginning at 9 a.m.** We have cleaning supplies here, or you can bring your favorite supplies. We will be sprucing up the inside of the church for sure. If the weather permits, we will also spruce up the outside as well. Be sure to bring your gloves!

Many hands make light work, so please try to come out and help even if it's just for a half hour.

Holy Week and Easter

Sunday, April 2nd – Palm Sunday and the conclusion of One Great Hour of Sharing and The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering. Worship is at 11 a.m., with Communion

No Lenten potluck and study on Wednesday, April 5th.

No Maundy Thursday worship April 6th

Good Friday, April 7th – 7 p.m. Worship service

Easter Sunday, April 9th

7 a.m. Sunrise Service

8 a.m. Easter Breakfast with Easter Egg hunt afterwards

11 a.m. Worship (no Sunday School)

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 3rd**. Email is always welcome for the dedications – churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

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

Lenten Disciplines

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/>

The One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten Offering will be taken on **Palm Sunday, April 2nd**. 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 conclude on **Palm Sunday, April 2nd**.

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.

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 April will be on **Friday, April 14th at 12 p.m.** Nancy Sobien and Rita Olson are your hostesses

All women of the church are invited to attend.

Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets on **the 1st and 3rd Thursday at 1 p.m. April's classes will be**

Thursdays April 6th and 20th. The book we are using to explore God's word is *Grace* by Max Lucado.

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

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. If in doubt, call Nancy Sobien.

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 26th** 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. Also, if you can volunteer to help at the Drive, contact Rick.

From the Trustees

You may have heard that there have been discussions about replacing our pews with pew chairs. These discussions started with a proposal to replace the old carpet which is rippling in places and starting to show wear and stains. If replacing the current carpet, it might be wise to carpet over the old tile underneath the pews. This in turn would help alleviate the cold floors that have been complained about for years.

If the full sanctuary is carpeted the pews will need to be removed. So then the next question is, do we put them back? That would require drilling new holes in the concrete floor to re-attach them. The current pews were purchased 53 years ago and the upholstery has not been touched since then. In addition, several individuals have mentioned that the pews are no longer very comfortable as some of the padding

had broken down and the board at the edge of the seat cuts into your legs.

The pews were purchased from the Marshall company. They have provided a proposal to reupholster the pews for \$27,680. As an alternative, pew chairs could be considered. There are several advantages to the chairs as they would:

- 1) provide flexibility to the seating arrangements, opens up many opportunities not available with fixed pews
- 2) increased comfort
- 3) cost, chairs could be purchased for \$15,000 to \$18,000. Depending on the chair that is chosen

If you have not encountered a pew chair you should give one of the sample chairs a try. These chairs are not only comfortable but are nice looking. The chairs hook together for stability. They come with book racks underneath and a pocket on the back of the chair, giving us the same functionality as the current pew.

This would be a significant change from our current setting and deserves to be thoughtfully and intentionally considered.

Your thoughts, concerns and input are important and can be given to the any of the trustees.

Are you graduating this year?

Are you graduating from high school or college this year? Please let the church office know by **Wednesday, April 19th**.

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 27th**.

Thank You!

To Mollie Marsh

Thank you to Mollie Marsh for sponsoring Soccer Teams through the Parks and Rec Department for at least the last two years.

Thank you, so much, Mollie, for your care and concern for the younger members of our community and your efforts to provide good, wholesome outlets for their energy and growth.

Lenten Potlucks and Studies

Thank you so very much, Sherry and Eddie Bush for all your hard work and dedication to the Lenten potluck set-up and serving. And thank you to all those who helped clean up after the meal. This crew varied from week to week, but you know who you are. Know that we are thankful for your time, talent, and dish-pan hands.

Thank you, Pastor Deral, for bringing a new perspective to this Lenten time and making the study so accessible to all.

This time of fellowship and faith could not have happened without all of y'all. Thank you again.

To the church

“Thank you for letting us stay the night!!!

Students from UWYO”

Vacation Bible School

**SAVE THE DATES! VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL JUNE 5-9. VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

Looking Ahead

Blanket Sunday

Blanket Sunday will be on **Sunday, May 14th,
Mother's Day**.

For over 75 years, Church World Service has been helping people of faith bring God's hope and healing to people in the U.S. and around the world. 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, 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.

For more about what Church World Services does, go to www.cwsglobal.org. They do so much more than blankets.

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.

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, 3rd – 12th 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.

April Birthdays

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

April Anniversaries

10 – Mike and Alice Keas

Special Angels for April

LITURGISTS (Susan Walker)

2 – Susan Broemeling
9 – Sunrise – Susan Walker
9 – 11 a.m. – Betty Ashcraft
16 – Grace Townsend
23 – Polly Sanders
30 – Mollie Marsh

FELLOWSHIP HOUR – (sign-up sheet)

2 – Gene and Susan Mussler
9 – No Fellowship Hour
16 – Ann and Curtis Carlin
23 –
30 –

USHERS (Curtis Carlin)

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

2 – Palms
9 – Lilies
16 – Joe B. and Mildred McNeal
23 –
30 –

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Sandy O'Connell)

From Pastor Deral

“There's Nothing To Fear!”

“Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?” But when they looked up they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. “Don't be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

Mark 16:2-7

Easter and the resurrection bring us to two inseparables: our problems and His Presence!

But it strikes me as a sad truth every year that Easter just doesn't mean much – it just can't catch hold – in people, who have not been in worship since Christmas, and now sit in a pew on Easter Sunday. Of course they're welcome! And I'm thrilled to see them! As we all are! But rather than being in worship convinced of need and filled with praise for a risen Savior, I sometimes sense that they're asking, “What's all this about? Am I missing something?”

As we continue to move through this Lenten Season, and as we approach Easter morning, join me in prayer that our worship will bring about an abundant surge of glorious exultation in the impelling Good News that Jesus is alive! Pray that people disillusioned and in despair; nervous with tension because of some problem; frightened by the future; sick of their sin; or just bored with their abundance – will find the joy, peace, and hope offered in the Life of Jesus Christ!

No matter who we are - like those early disciples, our greatest need is to have the resurrection happen in us! May this Easter be a true celebration of victory – Christ's and ours!

Pastor Deral

April 2023

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 Diaconate Board mtg.	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 No Maundy Thursday Serv.	7 Good Friday 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters 7 p.m. Good Friday Service	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 Christian Ed	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 Church Council Mtg. ?	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						

May 2023 – subject to change

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	2	3 7 p.m. PEO	4 1 p.m. Women's Bible Study 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir	5 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	6
7 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion Diaconate Board mtg.	8 6:30 p.m. Trustees mtg. 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	9	10	11 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir	12 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship	13
14 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Christian Ed Mother's Day	15 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	16	17 1 p.m. PEO	18 10:30 a.m. Children's House 1 p.m. Women's Bible Study 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir	19	20
21 10 a.m. LAST Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship End of Season BBQ	22 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	23	24	25	26	27
<i>Pentecost</i> 28 11 a.m. Worship Church Council?	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31			