

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org **May 2023** churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Volume 55 - Issue

AED Training

If we get enough people to sign up **SOON**, we will have an AED (automated external defibrillator) training session in the church Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, May 2, at 7 p.m.** Please contact Frank Marsh or the church office by Sunday, April 30th, if you are interested.

Women's Fellowship meeting

The Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall at **12 p.m. on Friday, May 12th**. This year's theme is "To God be the Glory." The hostesses will be Kay Eilebrecht and Judy Case.

This is open to all the ladies of the church and their women friends.

Spring Project

Women's Fellowship is asking the congregation to help with a spring project!

We are collecting personal care products for the residents of St. Luke's Elmore Long Term Care Unit. This project will last approximately six weeks. Donated items may be dropped off in the designated basket in the back of the sanctuary.

Items needed are:

Shampoos and conditioners
Toothbrushes and toothpaste
Polident
DOVE Body Wash
Deodorant
Lotions

Any questions? Please contact Nancy Sobien,
[REDACTED]

Mother's Day

Come join us as we celebrate Mother's Day, **Sunday, May 14th**.

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.

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.

Last Sunday School Celebration

On **Sunday, May 21st**, we will celebrate the last Sunday School class for the season with cake **AND a potluck barbecue** after worship.

Christian Ed and Curtis Carlin will provide hamburgers and bratwursts. We bring yummy side dishes and desserts to share. All are welcome to the table!

VBS Cancelled This Year

After prayerful consideration, the Christian Education Board has voted to cancel Vacation Bible School this year due to staffing concerns. Next year we will plan to have it the first week of June, so save the date. If you have never volunteered for VBS, then we would love to have you in 2024. Thank you all for your support for all we do for Christian Education and the kids.

Betty, Susan, Vickie, and Joyce

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. We will receive the Strengthen the Church offering on **Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023.**

Thank you

From Ted and Doreen Solum

“Dear Church Family 3/27

I have felt so loved and appreciated by my First Congregational Church family.

Thanks so much for the incredible cake, card, scarf, crystal bell and especially for the hugs!

You have just blessed my socks off in a 100 different ways. I will deeply miss Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, Women’s Ministry fellowship and seeing you each week.

It has been an honor to play piano for you. I will send Jennifer updates-

*Love in Jesus –
Doreen and Ted Solum”*

Office Help

Thank you to Frankie Guerre, Vickie Armstrong, Mollie Marsh, Judy Case, Susan Walker and Polly Sanders for coming in at various times during the week of March 27 – 30th so Ken and I could take a vacation to visit family. Thank you, also, to Eddie Bush who checked and sorted the mail for the church while I was gone. It was good not to have to go through a pile of mail! Thank you to Kay Eilebrecht for herding cats – literally.

Because of the generous sharing of their time, these church members made it possible for us to get away for a spell and not worry about anything here. Thank you more than we can say.

Ken and Jennifer Andersen

Holy Week Phone Call

The church received a phone message from an unknown caller on the Monday of Holy Week: **“Good morning. I was just calling because I live down the road and I wanted to let you know how much I love the crosses you guys set out at Eastertime each year. Thank you for doing that; it’s really beautiful.”**

Easter Lilies

Thank you to all who brought Easter Lilies to the church to share with the church family. The Sanctuary was beautiful.

A special Thank You to Lee Wright who came in several times during Holy Week to pluck the stamens off to help the lilies last longer.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday morning ushered in a beautiful sunrise and touching Sunrise service. After a delicious breakfast prepared by Joe McNeal, Curtis Carlin and the Flapjack Gang, nine of our lively children scampered to the church yard. Eggs galore were scattered around the yards and happily gathered in a few minutes.

Many thanks to those who brought candy for the eggs, those who helped stuff the eggs, and those who brought the children to enjoy the hunt.

*Bless you all!
Christian Education Board*

Thank you from the Choir

Many thanks to the Easter Bunny helper who gave the vocal and bell choir members chocolate bunnies! Also to Lee Wright for the beautiful Easter lily! They were much appreciated!
Hugs from the singers and ringers!

Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering went quite well this year! There were **39** packages totaling **215** individual undergarments, 8 packages of Depends, totaling 280 undergarments – this is a grand total of 495 undergarments. Thank you to everyone for 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 2nd, we collected **\$400.00** to be sent to the national church office to be used in a myriad of ways. Thank you, Everyone, for your continued generosity and concern for those near and far.

Spring Clean

Thank you to all who took time out from their Saturday morning on April 1st to help do some deep cleaning in the church and around the grounds of the church: Nancy Sobien, Linda Ramsey, Lars Hansen, Judy Case, Mollie and Frank Marsh, Roger and Barb Fogleman, Lee Wright, Gene Mussler, Sherry and Eddie Bush, Gail Banner, and Heidi Harris. If we've missed a name, please know that your presence and your effort is much appreciated.

To Card Elves

Many, many people's lives have been touched by our Card Elves. Thank you so much, Card Elves, for your thoughtful work that brings light to people's lives. The love you spread is a blessing to all.

Susan Broemeling

On Sunday, April 16th, Pastor Deral was feeling quite under the weather, but really, really wanted us to hear about Jesus and the Tax Man. Upon Pastor Deral's request, Susan Broemeling stepped up to read his sermon for us with very little advanced notice. Thank you, Susan. You did a great job!

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to Suzanne Dillard's grandson, Phillip Dillard, who will graduate from Robinson

High School in Tampa, Florida on May 28, 2023.

Congratulations to Rose and Lawrence Pearsall's daughter, Zoey J. Pearsall who will graduate from Tabb High School, Yorktown, Virginia on June 10, 2023. She has a scholarship to Iowa State University. Awesome job, Zoey.

Pilgrim Cove News

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.

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.

Change of Address

Ted and Doreen Solum



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 (Sue Stanek)

7 – Heidi Harris
14 – Rita Olson
21 – Phil Miller
28 – Vickie Armstrong

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up Sheet)

7 – Kay Eilebrecht
14 –
21 – Sunday School potluck barbecue
28 –

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

7 – Kelli Collett
14 – Susan and Richard Broemeling
21 – Frankie Guerre
28 –

USHERS (Lee Wright/Heidi Harris)

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Susan Walker)

From Pastor Deral

It's hard to believe, but next month (May 14) Garren and I will have served with you one year! We didn't necessarily anticipate being with you for this length of time. Quite a few of you have begun to ask how long we expect to continue with you all. We've begun to answer in a very honest way – "We're here in Mountain Home, serving this congregation, as long as God wants us here." We'll all trust that God knows how to answer beyond that!

In the meantime, it's probably wise for us all to ask some basic foundational questions of ourselves – questions that we've likely asked before, in some way

- What have I been living for?
- What shall I live for?
- What am I doing, or what will I do, with my Life?
- How does the way I'm living affect the Life of my church?

You may not have recognized it, but these questions center on our worship, not merely what happens on a Sunday morning, but what happens within us every moment of every day! God has made us to worship. He has stamped this on us. If you take time right now to read **Romans 11:33-12:2** you'll see what the apostle Paul says about our worship.

*These verses center on: Glory Dedication
Sacrifice*

God's glory is meant to be our organizing center. (11:33-36) Paul is astounded at the greatness of God. And his thoughts flow into worship. "From Him ..." – what do we have that He's not given? "Through Him ..." – what can we do without Him? "To Him ... - Who else deserves our highest honor? So who or what is my organizing center? That center is the person or thing that I hold most dear; what I truly treasure; whatever I hold in the preeminent position.

Dedication is our ordering commitment. (12:1) "Therefore" – there's meant to be an appropriate response. The word "offer" means: 'give; yield; present'. In view of this grace; this mercy; this forgiveness; this salvation – God calls us to commitment, to dedication. So, the question here is: to Whom, or to what, am I dedicating my Life? Is it God, or simply the things and stuff of idols that I've gathered and stored around me – whether at home, office, cabin, RV, or church building?

Sacrifice is the obedient core. (12:1) "Living" – not dead! Paul is saying that the priest and the sacrifice are one and the same. We're the priests who present the offering, and the offerings we present are our own living bodies – ourselves! The realization here is that we are handing over our bodies to something or someone day after day – in our schedules, our budgets, interests, energy, focused thought. This gets right to the core of who we are.

"Every thought we hold; every decision we make; every action we take; every emotion we allow to shape our behavior; every response we make to the world around us; every relationship we enter into; every reaction we have toward the things that surround us and impinge upon our lives – all of these things, little by little, are shaping us ..." – James Mullholland

Clearly, our worship is never meant to focus on place, style, times, furnishings, any outer items or decorations. The key realization, the foundational understanding, is that we become and take on the likeness of that which we worship. And that's why it's so important that we worship the One true God – our Lord Jesus Christ!

When we offer up ourselves to Him, He changes us from the inside out. It's the process of being changed from a hollow slave to sin, into a joyful servant of Jesus. It's knowing and experiencing the reality of the love of Christ; responding to that love; and living out that love day by day – and that's worship.

Pastor Deral

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57 7 p.m. Diaconate Board mtg.	2 7 p.m. AED training?	3 7 p.m. PEO	4 NO. 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	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
<i>Mother's Day</i> 14 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Christian Ed	15 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	16	17 1 p.m. PEO	18 10:30 a.m. Children's House 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir	19	20
21 10 a.m. LAST Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship End of Season Potluck BBQ	22 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	23	24	25	26	27
<i>Pentecost</i> 28 11 a.m. Worship	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31			

June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	3
4 11 a.m. Worship with Communion	5 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57 7 p.m. Diaconate Board mtg.	6	7	8	9	10
11 11 a.m. Worship	12 6:30 p.m. Trustees mtg. 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17
18 Father's Day 11 a.m. Worship	19 Juneteenth Office Closed	20	21	22	23	24
25 11 a.m. Worship	26 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	27	28	29	30	