

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org April 2025 mhfccucc@gmail.com

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News from the Search Committee!!

The Search Committee is working with a prospective settled pastor whom we feel will be a great fit for our church. As soon as we have all the details done, we will have him and his wife come to Mountain Home to meet with all of you. We'll be sending out a letter with more information in the near future. Please keep them, the Committee and our church in your prayers!

Pastor Deral's Office Hours

Through Wednesday, April 9th, Pastor Deral's office hours will be 4 – 7 due to the Lenten Potluck and Study. He will be in at 5 on Friday, April 7th for the Good Friday Worship at 7 p.m., which will be held at Christian and Baptist Church, 265 North 4th East.

As always, he is available by phone or email,
[REDACTED]

Wednesday Lenten Potluck and Study

The Lenten potluck supper and study will continue through **Wednesday, April 9th**. The potluck supper begins at 6 p.m. Please bring a covered dish to share. Beverages and bread are provided.

Following the potluck, at approximately 6:30 p.m., our Lenten Study begins. This year our Lenten study has been on *Crucial Truths of The Christian Faith* – specifically some of the basic claims of our faith that center around the resurrection. Our world views the resurrection of Jesus as a simply outrageous claim; one that announces that almost 2000 years ago, a man who died an unbelievably horrible death came back to unbelievably wonderful Life! It's the claim that He offers to include us in this Life with Him, if we will place our trust in Him.

There are no study materials required; Pastor Deral will supply everything we need. **Just bring your Bible.**

Easter Candy Help

Christian Education is doing again what they tried last year for the Easter Egg candy donations. They are asking for *monetary* donations instead of the actual candy. They will do the candy shopping for you and save you all that temptation. If you are donating by check,

please mark on the memo line that it is for Easter Egg candy. If you are giving actual money, please give it to any member of the Christian Ed committee or the church office. Members of the Christian Ed Committee are Betty Ashcraft, Vickie Armstrong, Susan Mussler and Sandra Moehn.

If you would like to help stuff eggs, the Christian Ed. Committee will be stuffing eggs after worship on Palm Sunday, April 13th.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Be the Light

“Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives.” (Matthew 5:14-16, The Message)

I think of the ministries our One Great Hour of Sharing gifts enable as a showering of unexpected blessings, much like those blessings Jesus granted in his sermon on the mount. Our offerings let people know that they are not alone, that people they don't even know see their pain and care enough to respond. They extend a mighty witness of love that is powerful and healing.

I hope you'll participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering this year with a spirit of joyful generosity!

Thank you for 'bringing out the God-colors in the world' by generously sharing your OGHS gifts. This is why we are here: to be shining witnesses of uncommon love and enduring hope, to share abundant blessings with others.

*Grateful for you,
The Rev. Shari Prestemon
Acting Associate General Minister & Co-Executive for
Global Ministries*

The One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten Offering will be taken on **Palm Sunday, April 13th**.

Coin boxes will be available should you wish to use one for your own giving ideas.

The Maurie Townsend Memorial Underwear Offering

The Annual Maurie Townsend Memorial Underwear Offering will began **Sunday, March 9th** and will conclude on **Palm Sunday, April 13th**.

This very different, and oddly named, 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 Breakfast

As our Lenten season draws to a close, we need to start gathering items for our Easter breakfast, which is **Sunday, April 20th**. 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 12th, 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 in preparation for Easter. Bring your favorite cleaning equipment and come join the fun.

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 13th – 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 16th.

NO Maundy Thursday worship on April 17th

Good Friday, April 18th –7 p.m. Friday, April 18th **at Christian and Baptist Church** Pastor Deral will deliver the message.

Easter Sunday, April 20th

7 a.m. Sunrise Service
7:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast
Easter Egg hunt after Breakfast
11 a.m. Worship

Women of the Church Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship theme this year is "*Faith Can Move Mountains*". The Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting for April will be on **Friday, April 11th at 12 p.m.**

Women's Fellowship is happy to welcome new members Tina Hutton, Carrie DiGuido and Diane Venski to our group. We hope they will enjoy getting together with the rest of us each month as much as we all do!

We are excited to have Doreen Solum back in our church! As we are growing, we invite all ladies to come and check us out! Our guest speaker will be Garren Shrom, speaking on her faith!

All women of the church are invited to attend.

Annual Rummage Sale

Our annual rummage sale will be held on Friday, **April 25th from 3:00-6:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 26th from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** We are accepting new and gently used clothing and household items for our sale. They may be dropped off at the church office anytime or brought to church on Sunday! Any questions, please contact Nancy Sobien at [REDACTED]

Set up will be on April 24th from 10 a.m. until??? Lunch will be provided for those who come to help set up on Thursday.

We are in need of nice donations...tools, toys, clothes, bedding, small appliances, household goods and décor. No paint, tires or TVs!

They may be dropped off anytime the church is open until Friday morning, April 26th.

Anyone that is interested in helping set-up, clean-up, price, work or cashier...please call Nancy Sobien, [REDACTED]

Thank you!

Let's all 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.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, April 22nd, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** to schedule your donation. If you have the Red Cross Blood Donor app, this makes it *very* easy to set up your appointment time.

If you have any questions or want to help with this event, check in with Rick Parks. Future dates have not been firmed up at this time. As soon as we know them, we'll let you know.

2025 Church Directory

The 2025 Church Directory is ready. You may pick one up from the bulletin table on Sunday or stop by the church office during the week to pick one up. If you are unable to get to the church or live out of town and would like one, please contact the church office at (208)587-4969 to make arrangements to receive a Directory.

Are you graduating this year?

Are you graduating from high school or college this year? Please let the church office know by **Wednesday, April 17th**.

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 24th**.

Thank You!

Shrove Pancake Supper

We had our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Tuesday, March 4th with 32 people in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship, and we collected \$20 in donations.

Thanks to Rick Bush and Richard Broemeling for cooking the pancakes, and Erica Brant for taking care of the sausage. Thank you also goes out to Kassidy Carpentier for reading Where Shrove Tuesday came from and Ann Carlin for reading the prayer.

Thank you to those who helped clean-up after the dinner was over, many hands made for fast clean-up, and it is greatly appreciated. See everyone next year.

Sincerely,
Curtis Carlin
Shrove Tuesday Coordinator

To Kay Eilebrecht

A heartfelt "Thank You!" goes out to Kay Eilebrecht. She is not only a member of the church family, but she also works tirelessly every week cleaning up after all of us and the folks who use our beautiful building. Please be sure to let her know how much you appreciate her. Besides thanking her, you can show her by doing your part to help keep things neat and clean. Thank you, Kay, for all you do!!!

From the Ronald McDonald House

"Hello again –

Thank you very much for your recent donation of pull tabs to our Ronald McDonald House, Boise. We appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness to direct your philanthropic efforts to help our families. The funds we receive by recycling helps provide necessities for them.

Thank you again –
Sincerely,
Marie (Volunteer)"

From Girl Scout Troop 1076

The girls from Girl Scout Troop 1076 have made many cards for the church to say "Thank You!" for the use of the church for their meetings on Monday afternoons. You can take a look at them on the wooden table in the corner of the Fellowship Hall.

Water line updated

Thank you, Eddie Bush, Frank Marsh, Lee Wright for upgrading the water line in the back flower bed. Your dedication to the upkeep of the church and grounds.

Looking Ahead

Blanket Sunday

Blanket Sunday will be on **Sunday, May 11th, 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.**

Please note! We are collecting donations of \$10 a blanket. We are not collecting blankets themselves. These blankets are special blankets that are water resistant, warm and durable.

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

Last Sunday School

Sunday, May 18th will be the last Sunday School class for the summer. We will celebrate the wonderful year of learning, playing and getting to know each other better by having a potluck barbecue after worship. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and buns will be provided. Please bring side dishes or desserts to share. Remember, all God’s children are welcome to the table.

Pilgrim Cove Camp

The camp programs for 2025 will include UCC Youth Summer Camp July 20-26, 2025, Women’s Retreat July 28-31, 2025, and the work weekends are May 16-17 and October 10-11, 2025.

To register for the youth summer camp or for another program opportunity, or to learn more details on our camping programs, you can simply go online to pilgrimcovecamp.org. Registration and payments can be made online at this website. You can also email the camp office at director@pilgrimcovecamp.org or call 208-634-5555 for information.

A minimum of a \$50 deposit is due at the time of registration and the balance is due prior to the event. Our church has scholarship opportunities to help with the cost of the UCC Youth Summer Camp.

Please remember we will need assistance to make our summer camp possible. We will need leaders and counselors for our camps.

Thank you for your continued support to make the Pilgrim Cove ministry possible.

I encourage you to keep watch for future announcements concerning Pilgrim Cove on their website and on their Facebook page (Pilgrimcove). Or you can always call the camp office.

Jay Leonard

Pilgrim Cove Camp Board Representative

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

April Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 – Roger Fogleman | 16 – Hailey Townsend |
| 2 – Landon Case | 17 – Patricia Urbick |
| 4 – Vickie Armstrong | 18 – Tori Case |
| 6 – Rose Pearsall | 20 - Barbara Fogleman |
| 10 – Sandra Meohn | 22 – Linda Miller |
| 15 – Char Kaufman | 26 – Linda Thomsen |
| 16- Mildred McNeal | 27 – Amanda Thompson |
| 16 – Stephanie Osgood | |

April Anniversaries

10 – Mike and Alice Keas

Special Angels for April

LITURGISTS (Polly Sanders)

- 6 – Frank Marsh
13 – Christine Negri
20, Sunrise – Betty Ashcraft
20, 11 a.m. – Polly Sanders
27 – Gene Mussler

FELLOWSHIP HOUR – (sign-up sheet)

- 6 – Allen and Heidi Harris
13 – The Moehn Family
20 – Easter
27 –

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

- 6 – Lee Wright
13 – The Moehn Family
20 – Easter Lilies
27 –

USHERS (Lee Wright)

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Kellie Collett)

From Pastor Deral

As I shared with you last month, at its heart, the Lenten Season is a period of grief in recognizing our sin before a holy and just God. But in reflecting on that, we also are overwhelmed at the love of our Savior.

The author of Hebrews says: “What we see is Jesus, Who for a little while was made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death for us. Yes, by God’s grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone in all the world.” *Hebrews 2:9 (New Living)*

Jesus experienced what it’s like to be forsaken, so that we might never be! He went through the darkness that we might know the light. He was cursed that we might be blessed. He was condemned to set us free. The sacrifice we couldn’t offer was given for us. The debt we couldn’t pay, was paid by Him. He suffered hell for us, that we might know the bliss of Heaven. He was forsaken that we would know forgiveness.

This is the self-giving of God, showing us a love that’s our only hope! May we keep all this in mind, and close to our hearts, as we experience Holy Week, and celebrate the Easter Joy of our salvation!

Pastor Deral

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30 pm – Women's AA	2 1 p.m. PEO 4 pm – GSA 976 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck 6:30 Study	3 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	4 10 am – First Friday Quilters	5 7 pm – 9 pm AA
6 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship With Communion	7 5:30 pm GSA 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	8 5:30 pm – Women's AA	9 4 pm – GSA 976 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck 6:30 Lenten Study	10 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	11 12 pm – Women's Fellowship	12 9 a.m. Spring Clean for Holy Week and Easter 7 pm – 9 pm AA
<i>Palm Sunday</i> 13 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	14 5:30 pm GSA 6:30 pm - Trustees 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	15 5:30 pm – Women's AA	16 1 p.m. PEO 4 pm – GSA 976	17 5 pm – Choir 6 pm – Bells NO Maundy Thursday service	<i>Good Friday</i> 18 7 p.m. Good Friday Worship At Christian/ Baptist Church	19 7 pm – 9 pm AA
<i>Easter</i> 20 7 a.m. Sunrise worship 7:45 Breakfast/Egg hunt NO Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	21 5:30 pm GSA 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	22 5:30 pm – Women's AA BLOOD DRIVE <u>8 a.m. – 4 p.m.</u> Virtual Academy 8 a.m. – 4:30 pm	23 4 pm – GSA 976 Virtual Academy 8 a.m. – 4:30 pm	24 5 pm – Choir 6 pm – Bells 10 a.m. 'til ??? Rummage Sale Set- up	25 8 – noon Rummage Sale set-up 1 – 4 p.m. Rummage Sale	26 8 a.m. – Noon Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale 7 pm – 9 pm AA
27 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Pastoral Candidate Sermon	28 5:30 pm GSA 7 p.m. Church Council 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	29 5:30 pm – Women's AA	30 4 pm – GSA 976			

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5 pm – Choir 6 pm – Bells	2 10 am – First Friday Quilters	3 7 pm – 9 pm AA
4 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship w/Communion	5 5:30 pm GSA 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	6 5:30 pm – Women's AA	7 1 p.m. PEO 4 pm – GSA 976	8 5 pm – Choir 6 pm – Bells	9 12 pm – Women's Fellowship	10 7 pm – 9 pm AA
<i>Mother's Day 1</i> 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship AW Christian Ed meeting	12 5:30 pm GSA 6:30 pm - Trustees 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	13 5:30 pm – Women's AA	14 4 pm – GSA 976	15 5 pm – Choir 6 pm – Bells	16	17 7 pm – 9 pm AA
18 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship End of Sunday School season Potluck and BBQ	19 5:30 pm GSA 7 p.m. Church Council 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	20 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Voting 5:30 pm – Women's AA	21 1 p.m. PEO 4 pm – GSA 976	22	23	24 7 pm – 9 pm AA
25 11 am Worship	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27 5:30 pm – Women's AA	28	29	30	31 7 pm – 9 pm AA