

# *Mountain Proclamations*

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

[www.mhfirstcongregational.org](http://www.mhfirstcongregational.org) March 2025 [mhfccucc@gmail.com](mailto:mhfccucc@gmail.com)

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## *Welcome!!!!*

On Sunday, February 16, 2025, Matthew Lobrovich joined our church family here at First Congregational Church, UCC. Welcome to the family, Matthew. We look forward to getting to know you!

## *Baptized into the family of God*

Matthew Lobrovich, Carrie DiGuido, and John DiGuido were baptized into the Christian faith on Sunday, February 23, 2025. Congratulations and welcome!!

## *GriefShare*

GriefShare meetings are going on now through the first Thursday in April at the Mountain Home Church of the Nazarene. They meet every Thursday afternoon, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. There is no cost unless you would like a workbook. Each session is a stand-alone session so it does not matter that you weren't there at the first meeting. You can get more information about this very helpful gathering by contacting the Nazarene church at (208)587-3093.

## *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, (303)884-1487; [deral389@aol.com](mailto:deral389@aol.com)

## *Pin Where You've Lived*

The Search Committee has put a world map in the Fellowship Hall for us to show all the places the church family has lived in their lifetimes. Please stop by and make your mark!

The purpose of this is to let prospective settled pastors know that we have a varied background and varied experiences. Thank you for your help with this!!

## *Wednesday Lenten Potluck and Study*

Beginning on **Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**, at **6 p.m.** we will have our Lenten Potluck before

our Lenten Study. Bring a covered dish to share. Beverages and bread will be provided.

Following the potluck, at approximately 6:30 p.m., will be our Lenten Study. This year our Lenten study will focus 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.**

These two events will run from **Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.**

## *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 13<sup>th</sup>**.

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 begin **Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** and will conclude on **Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**.

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.

### *Saturday night, March 8<sup>th</sup>*

Daylight Savings begins on **Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**. Be sure to mark your calendars to turn your clocks **ahead** one hour Saturday night before you go to bed.

### *Easter Lily Dedications*

If you would like to dedicate an Easter lily this year, you may bring it to the church any time the church is open during Holy Week, **April 14 – April 18**. 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 14<sup>th</sup>**.

Email is always welcome for the dedications – [mhfccucc@gmail.com](mailto:mhfccucc@gmail.com)

Forms for dedications will be available on the bulletin table at the back of the Sanctuary starting **Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**, but please do not bring your lily in until Holy Week.

### *Women's Fellowship*

“Faith Can Move Mountains” is the theme for the 2025 Women's Fellowship.

Our March potluck luncheon /meeting will be on **Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at noon**. Our guest speaker will be Garren Schrom who will share with us how Faith Can Move Mountains. Hostesses are Rita Olson and Nancy Sobien.

All women of the church and their friends, family and neighbors are invited. Please contact Nancy Sobien if you have questions.

### *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.

### *Annual Rummage Sale Preparations*

The Women's Fellowship Annual Rummage Sale will be **April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**.

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 turn it into something wonderful for the church.

Small items that can fit in a box can be brought to the church anytime the church is open. Larger items, such as furniture, should be brought in during the week of the sale, but before noon on Friday.

Please remember, no tires, computers, 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.

### *Thank You*

*To Joe and Mildred McNeal*

A very heartfelt and well-fed thank you to **Joe and Mildred McNeal** and the Black History Committee for a wonderful Fellowship Hour on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.

They pulled out all the stops – there was coleslaw, chopped pork sandwiches with 2 kinds of sauce available, beans, and, of course, cake. Sixty-eight people left the Fellowship Hall well-fed.

***Black History Luncheon***

On February 16<sup>th</sup> we had our annual Black History Luncheon, and a huge THANK YOU goes out to Joe B. and Mildred McNeal who supplied the amazing shredded meat, baked beans, coleslaw, and a beautiful chocolate cake. The event served 68 people.

I would like to thank Mike Moehn and Eddie Bush for helping to get everything set up so that Joe could get everything heated up and ready for lunch. I'd also like to thank Lola Moehn, Kassidy Carpentier and Rick Bush for serving Joe's amazing food.

To conclude I would like to thank Grace Townsend, Frank Marsh and anyone else that helped to get everything cleaned up; many hands make for a speedy clean-up, and is much appreciated.

*Sincerely,  
Curtis Carlin  
Social Committee Chairperson*

***Community***

Kaisa Crosley is currently trying to put together a Community Youth Choir to provide music for local community outreach events. She hopes to have this choir perform at the Community Harvest of Souls revival in Carl Miller Park in June.

If you have or know of any youth, grade school through high school, who might be interested in joining, please contact Kaisa at [REDACTED]

***Upcoming Events***

***Spring Clean***

The Annual Spring Clean will be **Saturday, April 12<sup>th</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 in preparation for Easter. Bring your favorite cleaning equipment and come join the fun.

***Holy Week Schedule***

**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</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, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

**NO Maundy Thursday worship**

**Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>** – 7 p.m. Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>

**Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**

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

***Easter Breakfast***

As our Lenten season we need to start gathering items for our Easter breakfast, which is **Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**.

By mid-March, there will be 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*

***Red Cross Blood Drive***

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

If you have any questions or would like to help check in donors, please contact Rick Parks.

***Pilgrim Cove Camp***

Dear Pilgrim Cove Camp Family:  
I am excited to let all of you know that the 2025 Program Schedule has been set and the [2025 Program Brochure](#) have been mailed to our church. 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](http://pilgrimcovecamp.org). Registration and payments can be made online at this website. You can also email the camp office at [director@pilgrimcovecamp.org](mailto: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.

They are always excited to see you at Pilgrim Cove Camp throughout the year. Please remember you can rent a cabin for the weekend, have a family event or just come for the day. If you have time to help out, please let them know.

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.

*Birthdays in March*

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2 – Patrick Harris  | 14 – Jean Leonard    |
| 3 – Brian Sporleder | 17 – Chris Rowl      |
| 4 – Emilia Loosli   | 18 – Bob Roberts     |
| 6 – Lori Levis      | 19 – Jay Townsend    |
| 11 – Zoey Pearsall  | 25 – Rita Olson      |
| 12 – Betty Celaya   | 25 – Sylvia Sisneros |
| 14 – Bobbi Kelly    | 29 – Matthew Houston |

*Anniversaries in March*

- 8 – Mollie and Frank Marsh  
21 – Sandra and Mike Moehn  
28 – Gloria and Leon Gaub  
31 – Mildred and Joe B McNeal

*Special Angels for March*

**LITURGISTS** (Rick Parks)

- 2 – Susan Walker  
9 – Susan Mussler  
16 – Heidi Harris  
23 – Betty Ashcraft  
30 – Luna Moehn

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR** (Sign-up Sheet)

- 2 – Mary Ann Hamilton and Betty Celaya  
9 – Gene and Susan Mussler  
16 – Need a volunteer  
23 – Need a volunteer  
30 – Need a volunteer

**USHERS** (Kelli Collett)

**FLOWERS** (Sign-up sheet)

- 2 – Gail Banner  
9 – Need a volunteer  
16 – Nadine Roberts  
23 – Need a volunteer  
30 – Joe and Mildred McNeal

**PARAMENTS** (Allen and Heidi Harris)

**COMMUNION** (Curtis Carlin)

*From Pastor Deraf*

On Wednesday, March 5, we will join together with folks from the Christian/Baptist Church to celebrate Ash Wednesday. 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. On the night before His crucifixion, He met with His disciples in an upper room. He spoke of many things, but one of the things He said twice that night was: “A new commandment I give you; that you love one another; even as I have loved you.” (John 15:12, 17)

How wonderfully unforgettable that our Lord Jesus would give this command on a night when He was to go out and face all the forces of evil – a night of betrayal, denial, desertion – all prelude to His death. He would, and did, bear the awful trial and tragedy of the Cross – alone.

But it wasn’t the end. His trial, crucifixion, and death were not the end! An unbelievably horrible death gave way to an unbelievably wonderful Life!

Jesus endured that lonely time, that we might never have to be alone as He was. When we face trials, we’re not alone. When we face temptations, when we face persecution, when we face hard times, when we face disease, when we face setbacks, when we face criticism and misunderstanding – we’re not alone! Even when we face our greatest enemy death, we are not alone! The love He shared and continues to show, He sends us out to proclaim – together.

We’re never alone!

*Pastor Deraf*

March 2025

| Sun                                                                                                        | Mon                                                                 | Tue                                                                        | Wed                                                                                                    | Thu                                | Fri                                    | Sat                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                                                                                            |                                                                     |                                                                            |                                                                                                        |                                    |                                        | 1<br>7 pm – 9 pm<br>AA  |
| 2<br>10 am Sunday<br>School<br>11 am Worship<br>With Communion                                             | 3<br>5:30 pm GSA<br>7 p.m. Diaconate<br>Board<br>7 pm Troop/Crew    | 4<br>5:30 p.m.<br>Women's AA<br>6 p.m. Shrove<br>Tuesday<br>Pancake Supper | <i>Ash</i><br><i>Wednesday</i> 5<br>1 p.m. PEO<br>4 pm – GSA 976<br>7 p.m. Ash<br>Wednesday<br>worship | 6<br>5 pm – Choir<br>6 pm - Bells  | 7<br>10 am – First<br>Friday Quilters  | 8<br>7 pm – 9 pm<br>AA  |
| <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in<br/>Lent</i> 9<br>10 am Sunday<br>School<br>11 am Worship<br><b>DST begins</b> | 10<br>5:30 pm GSA<br>6:30 pm -<br>Trustees<br>7 pm Troop/Crew<br>57 | 11<br>5:30 pm –<br>Women's AA                                              | 12<br>4 pm – GSA 976<br>6 p.m. Lenten<br>Potluck<br>6:30 Lenten<br>Study                               | 13<br>5 pm – Choir<br>6 pm - Bells | 14<br>12 pm –<br>Women's<br>Fellowship | 15<br>7 pm – 9 pm<br>AA |
| <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday<br/>in Lent</i> 16<br>10 am Sunday<br>School<br>11 am Worship                     | 17<br>5:30 pm GSA<br>7 pm Troop/Crew<br>57                          | 18<br>5:30 pm –<br>Women's AA                                              | 19<br>1 p.m. PEO<br>6 p.m. Lenten<br>Potluck<br>6:30 Lenten<br>Study                                   | 20<br>5 pm – Choir<br>6 pm - Bells | 21                                     | 22<br>7 pm – 9 pm<br>AA |
| <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday<br/>in Lent</i> 23<br><b>NO</b> Sunday<br>School<br>11 am Worship                 | 24<br>7 p.m. Church<br>Council                                      | 25<br>5:30 pm –<br>Women's AA                                              | 26<br>4 pm – GSA 976<br>6 p.m. Lenten<br>Potluck<br>6:30 Lenten<br>Study                               | 27<br>5 pm – Choir<br>6 pm - Bells | 28                                     | 29<br>7 pm – 9 pm<br>AA |
| <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday<br/>in Lent</i> 30<br>10 am Sunday<br>School<br>11 am Worship                     | 31<br>5:30 pm GSA<br>7 pm Troop/Crew<br>57                          |                                                                            |                                                                                                        |                                    |                                        |                         |

April 2025

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