

# Mountain Proclamations

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

[www.mhfirstcongregational.org](http://www.mhfirstcongregational.org) March 2026 [mhfccucc@gmail.com](mailto:mhfccucc@gmail.com)

Volume 59 - Issue 3

## 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.

## AED Training

The Board of Trustees is offering Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training sometime this month (March). The sign-up deadline was February 28<sup>th</sup>, but if you are truly interested, contact a member of the Board of Trustees.

At the time of this printing, the date has not been determined. If you've signed up, you will be contacted. The information will also be announced in church and in *The Loop* (weekly e-newsletter).

## Pastor Derrick's contact information

Pastor Derrick is in the office every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 until noon. He is also available by appointment. If you need to schedule a visit with Pastor Derrick here or in your home, you may call the office (208)587-4969 or Pastor Derrick at (919)593-0820. He also has email: [bridgebuildersconnect@gmail.com](mailto:bridgebuildersconnect@gmail.com)

## One Great Hour of Sharing

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)*

### **What is One Great Hour of Sharing?**

For over 75 years, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS) has been helping Christians bring God's hope and healing to hurting people both in the US and around the world. OGHS's mission is to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to

communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster, provide advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. OGHS provides funding and hands-on assistance in collaboration with local and international partners. Each year, OGHS is gathered by several denominations and Church World Service (CWS) under a single theme developed by the ecumenical OGHS Committee. In the United Church of Christ, the Global H.O.P.E. team oversees the distribution of the offering. You can learn more about this team at [www.ucc.org/global-hope](http://www.ucc.org/global-hope). Thank you for supporting One Great Hour of Sharing for over 75 years. You continue to embody a love offering to the world.

### **Where does the offering go?**

Here are a few examples of organizations supported through gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. Your gifts travel to East Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, South America, and beyond. Mediterranean Hope - Italy Refugee and migrant service ministry International Assistance Mission - Afghanistan Eye care, prosthetics, mental health, and rehabilitation efforts Children's Future International - Cambodia Community development and anti-human trafficking program

The One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten Offering will be taken on **Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**.

## The Maurie Townsend Memorial Underwear Offering

The Lenten Maurie Townsend Memorial Underwear Offering has begun and will conclude on **Palm Sunday, March 29<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 throughout Lent for you to place your offerings in.

## Wednesday Lenten Potluck and Study

Lenten potlucks and studies have begun

**Changes this year!** The Wednesday night potluck portion runs from **5 to 6 p.m.** Come in any time in that hour for food and fellowship. If possible, please bring a covered dish to share. Beverages and bread will be provided.

**From 6 to 7 p.m.** we will have our Lenten study. This year the study will run for 7 weeks and we will be revisiting Jesus' 7 last sayings. Below is the breakdown of the studies and the formats.

**Week #1: Forgiveness – Full & Free**

**Luke 23:32-34**

**Week #2 From Pain to Paradise**

**Luke 23:32-43**

**Week #3 Love the Provides**

**John 19:26-27**

**Week #4 My Forsaken Substitute**

**Matthew 27:45-49**

**Week #5 A Human Cry from A Loving God**

**John 19:28-29**

**Week #6 Not A Victim- A Victor**

**John 19:25-30**

**Week #7 Triumphant**

**Luke 23:46**

**Attention all:** Please make plans to join us during the Lenten Season for a time of fellowship, food and study of God's word. With interactive lessons, discussions, videos and more. Please invite a friend or neighbor to learn of the Jesus 7 last saying.

## Saturday night, March 7<sup>th</sup>

Daylight Savings begins on **Sunday, March 8<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 your lily(lilies) to the church any time the church is open during Holy Week, **March 29 – April 3**. 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, March 23rd**.

Email is always welcome for the dedications – [mhfccucc@gmail.com](mailto:mhfccucc@gmail.com) Forms for dedications are available on the bulletin table at the back of

the Sanctuary, but please do not bring your lily in until Holy Week.

## Women's Fellowship

This year's Women's Fellowship theme is "My Cup Runneth Over." Our March potluck luncheon /meeting will be on **Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at noon**. All women of the church and their friends, family and neighbors are invited. Please contact Nancy Sobien if you have questions.

## Spring Clean

The Annual Spring Clean will be **Saturday, March 28<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.

## Easter Candy Help

Christian Education is 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 Ken Andersen and Diane Venski. The eggs will be filled on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Pilgrim Cove Representative

Pilgrim Cove Camp has been an important part of our church life for decades. There is a Board that governs and maintains our church camp in McCall. This Board was put in place by the Idaho Association of UCC Churches.

Mountain Home First Congregational Church needs to have a voice on that Board. If you have an interest in Outdoor Ministry and can either physically be in McCall or through ZOOM, attend the monthly meetings of the Pilgrim Cove Camp Board, please contact the church office and we'll get you introduced to the Board. Thank you for considering this unique youth ministry.

## Part time job opening

**The position of Church Secretary is coming open.** Jennifer's retirement date is December 31, 2026. However, it will take 3 – 6 months to train someone for the job, so resumés can be submitted anytime. She can retire earlier if the new secretary is ready earlier.

If you or someone you know would like to shadow us in the office to see what it's like, contact us and we'll set you up for a week to tag along. A copy of the job description is available from the office.

## Video Etiquette

We have been recording and posting our worship services on YouTube for many years now. With so many new folks joining us, we felt it was time to do a refresher on video etiquette.

At the beginning of the service, we ask for announcements. These are upcoming events that we would like the church and community to know about. These are on the video.

Later in the service, we stop the video as we share our Joys and Concerns. This is when we share more personal information that we don't want the whole wide world to know. Health information, trips, passing away, *results of a past event* – all these things can be shared during this time. This will ensure the safety of everyone's personal information out on the web.

## Holy Week Schedule

**Sunday, March 29<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, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**6 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship**

**Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>** – 7 p.m.

**Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

7 a.m. Sunrise Service with Communion

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

11 a.m. Worship with Communion

## Thank You

### *Joe's repast*

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of the volunteers who so generously gave their time and effort to help set up and clean up after the repast for Joe B McNeal. I am also deeply grateful to everyone who brought food to share, providing comfort and nourishment to family and friends. Your kindness, generosity, and willingness to serve meant so much to those gathered, and your support helped make the day a meaningful tribute. Thank you for your dedication and compassion during this important time. We

can truly be proud of our congregation for being a loving and giving church.

Thank you all for answering the call to help.

*Linda Ramsey*

### *From Mildred McNeal and family*

Mildred McNeal and her entire family are incredibly thankful and grateful to Pastor Derrick, the Women's Fellowship and Sister and Brothers of the First Congregational Church, in reflecting Christ by all the love, support, and prayers you extended to our family during this difficult time in honor of our beloved Joe B. McNeal. Whether it was through comforting words, food, attending the funeral service, serving, singing in the choir, or offering assistance in any way, your acts of kindness, compassion and support touched us deeply. We will never forget the church's continual expressions of Godly love, during this challenging time, and it will always be treasured by our family.

“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it”!

*Mildred F. McNeal and Family*

### *Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper*

I just wanted to take a minute, while I am full of pancake, to say Thank You to all that helped with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Those who cooked the pancakes, Rick Bush, Eddie Bush and Curtis Carlin and those that helped load and serve the pancakes, Heidi Harris and Judy Case. I also want to thank Ann Carlin and Sherry Bush for helping with the set-up and all that helped with the clean-up. We had 24 people that came and ate pancakes and sausage and we received \$4. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves!

*From a grateful heart,*

*Erika Brandt*

## Upcoming Events

### *Easter Breakfast*

As our Lenten season begins, we need to start gathering items for our Easter breakfast, which is Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. I understand this is early, but this will give everyone time to get the items that are needed without feeling rushed. The drop off date will be April 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM – 12 PM.

On the 1st Sunday in 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, by email or over the phone.

*Sincerely,  
Curtis Carlin  
Easter Breakfast Chairman*

### ***Red Cross Blood Drive***

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** to schedule your blood 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. Walk-ins are always welcome

### ***Annual Rummage Sale Preparations***

The Women's Fellowship Annual Rummage Sale will be **April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<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.

### ***American Cancer Society Relay for Life***

When: July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Where: Carl Miller Park  
Time: 11 AM – 10 PM

If you'd like to donate to our team, please see Ann before or after church services. Ann will also have information on how to donate online.

*Sincerely,  
Ann & Curtis Carlin  
Event Leads  
Relay for Life of Elmore County  
American Cancer Society  
208-519-1687*

[relay4life.elmorecounty.idaho@gmail.com](mailto:relay4life.elmorecounty.idaho@gmail.com)

### ***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

### ***Special Angels for March***

#### **LITURGISTS** (Jo Gridley)

1 – Heidi Harris  
8 – Jennifer Andersen  
15 – Wade Baumgardner  
22 – Susan Walker  
29 – Mollie Marsh

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

1 – Grace Townsend  
8 – Allen and Heidi Harris  
15 – Erika Brandt  
22 –  
29 – Barb and Roger Fogleman

#### **USHERS** (Lee Wright)

#### **FLOWERS** (Sign-up sheet)

1 – Vickie Armstrong  
8 – Gail Banner  
15 –  
22 – Nadine Roberts  
29 – Mildred McNeal

#### **PARAMENTS** (Allen and Heidi Harris)

#### **COMMUNION** (Curtis Carlin)

### ***From Pastor Derrick***

Greetings All,

As we enter Lent Season and forty (40) days of reflection and reconciliation to God, let us never forget the sacrifices that were made on the cross for us.

The Bible says: Romans 5:8: "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us".

His love and compassion towards us give us the reassurance that we are loved and cared for and God has a purpose and plan.

My encouragement to everyone as we navigate through the next 40 days is to seek God's guidance and wisdom. Focus on the plan He has for you and remember that He suffered so you can live.

*God Bless,  
Pastor Derrick and Latasha Wilcox*

# March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent 1</i></p> <p>10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meets 7 p.m. BSA</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Women's AA</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>1 p.m. PEO 5 p.m. Lenten potluck 6 p.m. Lenten Study 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>5 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 6 p.m. Bells</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>10 a.m. First Friday Quilters</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>7 p.m. AA</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Set your clocks 1 hour ahead at bedtime!</b></p>
<p><i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent 8</i></p> <p>2 a.m. DST Begins 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Christian Ed mtg</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 6:30 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. BSA</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Women's AA</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>5 p.m. Lenten potluck 6 p.m. Lenten Study</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>5 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 6 p.m. Bells</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>12 p.m. Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>7 p.m. AA</p>
<p><i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent 15</i></p> <p>10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. BSA</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>St. Patrick's Day 5:30 p.m. Women's AA</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>1 p.m. PEO 5 p.m. Lenten potluck 6 p.m. Lenten Study 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>5 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 6 p.m. Bells</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>7 p.m. AA</p>
<p><i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent 22</i></p> <p>10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Outreach mtg</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Women's AA</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>5 p.m. Lenten potluck 6 p.m. Lenten Study</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9 a.m. Spring Clean 7 p.m. AA</p>
<p><i>Palm Sunday 29</i></p> <p>10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 7 p.m. BSA</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Women's AA</p>				

# April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p><b>*4/2</b></p> <p>5 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 6 p.m. Bells?</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>1 p.m. PEO 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 1077</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>6 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship *</p>	<p><i>Good Friday</i> <b>3</b></p> <p>10 a.m. First Friday Quilters 7 p.m. Good Friday Worship</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>7 p.m. AA</p>
<p><i>Easter 5</i></p> <p>7 a.m. Sunrise Worship w/Communion 7:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast/Egg Hunt <b>NO Sunday School</b> 11 a.m. Worship w/Communion</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 7 p.m. Diaconate Board mts 7 p.m. BSA</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Women's AA</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>5 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 6 p.m. Bells</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>12 p.m. Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>7 p.m. AA</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Christian Ed mtg</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 6:30 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. BSA</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Women's AA</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>1 p.m. PEO 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>5 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 6 p.m. Bells</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>7 p.m. AA</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. BSA</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Women's AA</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Earth Day 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>5 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 6 p.m. Bells</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Rummage Sale</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Rummage Sale 7 p.m. AA</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Outreach Committee</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 7 p.m. BSA</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Women's AA <b>8 a.m. – 4 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077 <b>Virtual</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>5 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 6 p.m. Bells <b>Academy</b></p>		