

# *Mountain Proclamations*

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

[www.mhfccucc.org](http://www.mhfccucc.org)

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## *Ash Wednesday Service*

The Ash Wednesday service will be held here on **Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m.**

## *Wednesday Lenten potluck and meditations*

Our traditional Wednesday Lenten Potluck and Meditation begins **Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.** Please bring food to share and your place setting. Beverages will be provided.

At **6:30 p.m.** we will begin our Lenten meditation and discussion on the book *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why* by Adam Hamilton. There are some books available in the office. More books will be ordered as needed. This book is also available as an e-publication. The books are free, but if you wish to donate the cost of the book, it is \$13.

This is a wonderful tradition that will help enrich your Lenten experience. Join us in the fellowship and growth that this season has to offer.

## *Women of the Church*

### *Women's Fellowship*

Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting for March will be held on **Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at noon** in the Fellowship Hall.

Betty Parks will be the hostess and she will also lead the worship.

The women of the church are invited to join us as we learn to continue to run toward Jesus with all of our joys and our concerns.

### *Women's Bible Study*

Women's Bible Study meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of March (**March 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**) at **11 a.m.** in the pastor's office.

### *Flowers and Fellowship*

If you indicated on your Time and Talent pledge card that you would like to host a Fellowship Hour, you will not get a phone call asking you to do this. We are still using the sign-up sheet for this. Pick a Sunday or two (or three!) that works

for you, put your name on the line so it's reserved for you and that's all there is to it. When your Sunday to host rolls around, there are instructions on the bulletin board in the kitchen to help you get things done. And as always, any one of the ladies from the Women's Fellowship will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Flowers, too, have a sign-up sheet. You can pick a whole month or just a few Sundays or just one Sunday. We have silk flowers in the Flower Room that you can use, or you can pick from the flowers on the church grounds when they are in bloom or you can bring your own. If you have a pretty potted plant, you can bring that if you choose a Sunday from late spring to mid fall. It will get watered on Thursdays with the rest of the church "house" plants. You don't have to come to church early to set up the flowers, either. You can get a key from the church office and come in on Saturday afternoon to do them, or, in the case of silk flowers, do them up anytime the church is open. Whatever works best for you.

Both of these sign-up sheets can be found on the table in the back corner of the sanctuary between the outer doors and the Fellowship Hall door.

## *Saturday night, March 11<sup>th</sup>*

Daylight Savings begins on **Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**. Be sure to mark your calendars to turn your clocks **ahead** Saturday night before you go to bed.

## *One Great Hour of Sharing*

### *"You are Here"*

The 2017 theme for the offering is "*You are here*" which could easily be the response to a question provoked by tragedy, fear or suffering: "Where are you, God?" Psalm 145:18 echoes the refrain throughout scripture that God is nearby. As soon as a person calls on God, God is here.

*You are here* shows the church uniting to respond to the many critical needs present in our world today. Our support is given through partner organizations responding to health, education and agricultural development needs, refugee initiatives, and both international and domestic disaster response.

When we give, as the United Church of Christ – individuals, groups and congregations – it means that the church can stand strong, in the midst of need whether it is nearby or far away. When God’s love abides in us, we are moved to respond with our own material goods to the needs of other members of God’s family.

Thank you for your support, whether you are a new supporter, or long-time supporter, every gift matters. Every gift allows us to say, “*You are here.*”

Coin boxes and giving suggestion sheets will be available from the bulletin table in the sanctuary or from the church office beginning **Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**.

For more information about One Great Hour of Sharing and stories from recipients of last year’s OGHS offerings, go to [www.ucc.org/oghs](http://www.ucc.org/oghs).

This offering will be collected on **Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017**.

### *The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering*

*The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering* will be taken every Sunday during Lent ending on **Palm Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**.

It may sound like a truly bizarre name, but this offering accomplishes a wonderful and not often thought of service for the disadvantaged in our community. It provides undergarments of all kinds for all kinds of people – men, women, boys, girls, petite, not-so-petite and on and on.

Any time during Lent, bring in new, unopened packages of any type of undergarments - socks, underwear, t-shirts, ANY kind of undergarment - for any age group or gender. When all the offerings are collected, they will be taken to El-Ada or St. Vincent de Paul for distribution to the disadvantaged in our area.

### *Welcome!*

Welcome Girl Scout Troops 223 and 274. We are now sponsoring two Girl Scout troops – one on Wednesday afternoons and the other on Thursday evenings. Both are under the leadership of Wendy Franklin. Welcome, Ladies!

### *Pilgrim Cove Camp Jobs*

Pilgrim Cove Camp is getting ready for their summer season and that means hiring summer workers.

They wish to make sure that they offer the folks of the Association churches "first crack" at these

openings. They need 3 lifeguards, 3 kitchen staff, and 2 housekeepers. The positions have hourly pay as well as room and board.

The pay will be: lifeguards \$10 an hour and if needed they can arrange for the training. Dishwashers will be hired at \$9.50/hr, Prep Cook at \$10/hr, and housekeepers \$8.50/hr. The season goes from Memorial Day through at least Labor Day. Lifeguards should be at least 18; kitchen staff and housekeeping no younger than 16. It would be great to have adults (18+) apply as well.

If you or someone you know would like to experience the beauty of Pilgrim Cove Camp, please have them contact Lori at 208-634-5555 or [manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org](mailto:manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org). to discuss the application process. They hope to have these positions filled by mid-May.

### *Food Bank Donations*

Don’t forget the Big Blue Bucket when you are out picking up items for your own home. If you need it, someone else does, too, so pick up two!

### *Relay for Life*

As everyone knows Curtis and I participate in the Relay For Life, and this year is no different. Curtis and I have officially started our fundraising for the 2017 Relay For Life season and we are hoping that we can count on the support of our wonderful and loving church family. No donation is too small for this worthy cause.

Here is why we participate in the Relay For Life. Curtis is a cancer survivor of 7 years and our son-in-law Nicholas Tomsic is currently battling cancer. We also do it for loved ones we have lost to the dreaded disease. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation, please see Curtis or I either before or after church every Sunday until the Relay which takes place on June 10<sup>th</sup> at Carl Miller Park.

*Thank you and God bless,  
Ann and Curtis Carlin*

### *Thank You*

*Joe B. and Mildred McNeal*

Thank you to Joe and Mildred McNeal for the wonderful potluck after worship on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The McNeals provided us with a delicious meal of pulled pork, a choice of 2 sauces, coleslaw, jambalaya and, of course, chocolate cake. All this in celebration of Black History Sunday. Thank you, Joe and Mildred!

### *Elin Colthorp*

Thank you, Elin, for the donation of a package of legal sized (8.5 X 14) paper that we use for this very newsletter! This donation helps so much to extend the office budget.

### *From Ken Hill*

The First Congregational Church members and friends:

I'd like to thank everyone for the cards, meals, and the moral support for Mom and I.

My brother and his family were here for a week and were amazed at the outpouring of support from the church family.

*Thank you,  
Ken and Mary Hill*

### *Looking Ahead*

#### *Spring Clean*

The annual Spring Clean will be Saturday, **April 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. until ???**

Linda Thomsen does a wonderful job keeping our church clean and ready for whatever comes our way. But the Spring Clean is a little different. This is when we do some heavier cleaning that doesn't need doing on a weekly basis. Cleaning windows, polishing doors and other wood work, sprucing up flower beds – whatever your pet project is, bring your favorite cleaning supplies, tools and gloves and join in the party to help make our church sparkle.

#### *Easter Candy, Please?*

'Tis that time of year, again. It is Easter – a most holy time for adults. But for the kids – try as they might to be reserved and reverent, Easter means Easter baskets and, you guessed it!, Easter Egg hunts!

The Christian Education Board has *plenty* of eggs. But they are all empty. **Between now and Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**, please bring in your donations of Easter candy, *individually wrapped* and small enough to fit in a plastic egg. Thank you for your continued generosity with this annual event.

#### *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 10 - 13. If you would like your memorial or honorable mention to be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please have that information to the

church office by **1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**. Office hours are from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Forms for dedications will be on the table at the back of the Sanctuary beginning **March 26<sup>th</sup>**, but please do not bring your lily in until Holy Week.

### *Holy Week and Easter*

This year's Holy Week schedule is as follows:

**April 9<sup>th</sup>**, Palm Sunday, **11 a.m.** Worship  
**April 13<sup>th</sup>**, Maundy Thursday, **6 p.m.** Maundy Thursday Meager Meal and Service – not a potluck  
**April 14<sup>th</sup>**, Good Friday, **6:30** at First Congregational Church  
**April 16<sup>th</sup>**, Easter Sunday  
**7 a.m.** Sunrise Service  
**7:45 a.m.** Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt  
**11 a.m.** Worship Service  
*No Sunday School on Easter Sunday*

### *Annual Rummage Sale*

The Women's Fellowship Annual Rummage Sale is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup>. Now is the time to start cleaning out those garages, attics, basements, and spare bedrooms for those gently used items that help the ladies make this sale possible.

Please remember, we cannot take any items that would cost the Women's Fellowship to dispose of if they don't sell. This would include any hazardous chemicals or old electronic items – old computers, televisions and the like.

Contacts for this event are Linda Miller.

### *Summer Camp*

Summer camp will be the July 9<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to be a counselor or a counselor-in-training, please contact the church office and we will pass your name and contact information along to this year's camp coordinator.

If you have youth or know youth from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade who are interested in camp, the cost this year is projected to be \$350. Scholarships are available.

### *Birthdays in March*

2 – Patrick Harris	18 – Bob Roberts
3 – Amy Aggen	19 – Jay Townsend
8 – Joseph Dillard	20 – Mary Ethel Langfitt
10 – Lucille Gregory	23 – Mickie Betts
11 – Genara Toy	24 – Doran Carbaugh
11 – Zoey Pearsall	25 – Carolyn Estes
14 – Jean Leonard	25 – Rita Olson
14 – Bobbi Kelly	25 – Sylvia Sisneros

15 – Alice Washington 26 – Chris Bergstol  
18 – Nick Dillenbeck 29 – Matthew Houston  
29 – Rick Simono

### *Anniversaries in March*

3 – Pauline and Michael Marten  
8 – Mollie & Frank Marsh  
24 – Doran & Ed Carbaugh  
28 – Gloria & Leon Gaub  
31 – Mildred & Joe B McNeal

### *Special Angels for March*

#### LITURGISTS (Heidi Harris)

5 – Lawrence Pearsall  
12 – Jennifer Dillenbeck  
19 – Mildred McNeal  
26 – Heidi Harris

#### GREETERS (Ken Hill)

5 – Betty Ashcraft  
12 – Windy and Marlene Osborn  
19 – Todd and Chris Paille  
26 – Grace and Maurie Townsend

#### FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up sheet)

5 – Rose Pearsall  
12 – Carrie Roeder  
19 – Mary Ann Hamilton and Ashley Clark  
26 – Mickie Betts

#### CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Sign-up sheet)

5 – Communion – No Children's Church  
12 – Heidi Harris  
19 – Betty Ashcraft  
26 – Ken Andersen

#### NURSERY (Sarah Duty/Debi Deal)

#### USHERS (Curtis Carlin)

#### FLOWERS (Sign-up sheet)

Nadine Roberts

#### PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

#### COMMUNION (Ann Carlin)

### *From the Pastor*

Dear loved ones,

Moving is quite the experience. Most think of it as the hassle where we need to beg friends and family to help move large, awkward items. Valuable free time is sacrificed for cleaning and boxing. Then there is all that stuff we have

acquired throughout life. This is where moving offers a unique spiritual opportunity.

The act of relocating offers us the chance to reassess our possessions and discover what is essential. Packing makes us ask, "Is this thing worth carrying forward?" The question is more than a brief assessment. It truly beckons reflection. Sure, there are many items that are trash or call to thought, "Wow, why on earth do I still have that?" I am more focused on the things that bring forth emotion and memories of life's epic journey. The clothes, books, pictures, and trinkets that tell us of where we have been and who we have met. Many remind us of unbelievable joy while others bring to mind the struggles we have overcome. When we move there is a holy chance to remember these stories and ask, "Is this what I need now?"

Lent is the Christian Spiritual move. This year's wilderness story is from Matthew and tells of Jesus' three temptations. This is the first act of Christ's ministry and is essentially an assessment of what Jesus needs for the journey ahead. They are not the traditional Lenten practices of letting go of what is already possessed. The story is Jesus affirming the only thing he seeks and needs for the path ahead is God. Jesus finds full confidence in examining the other options and possibilities.

We are on a new journey together. It is too early for me to say we are necessarily packing up. I would almost claim we are looking around the house and assessing. It should be fun and playful. I pray as individuals and as a community we take our time to enjoy it. Let us take time to rediscover what we put on the shelf and forgot about. Let us joyfully reclaim those practices, ways of life, and things that have always made us who we are. Let us tell their stories and in a profound way rediscover their importance. Let us find new important trinkets that we may have hidden away and have now collected dust. Let us join in laughter when we find those things that makes us think, "I don't what that is, where that came from, or why it is here?" Let us dance as we let go of what needs to be released, and sing as we re-embrace what has always filled us with life.

May this holy practice and sacred season remind us of our ultimate identity as children of God.

*Blessings*

*Pastor Drew*

# March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:30 GST #223 <b>7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service</b>	2 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Choir practice 6 p.m. GST #274	3	4
<i>First Sunday of Lent</i> 5 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	6 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 p.m. BSA	7 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	8 11:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 Lenten Potluck and meditation 3:30 GST #223	9 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Choir practice 6 p.m. GST #274	10 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship	11
<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> 12 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship <b>DST begins – spring forward</b>	13 7 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. BSA	14 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	15 6:30 Lenten Potluck and meditation 3:30 GST #223	16 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Choir practice 6 p.m. GST #274	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
<i>Third Sunday of Lent</i> 19 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	20 7 p.m. Christian Ed 7 p.m. BSA	21 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	22 11:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 Lenten Potluck and meditation 3:30 GST #223	23 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Choir practice 6 p.m. GST #274	24	25
<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> 26 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	27 7 p.m. Church Council	28	29 6:30 Lenten Potluck and meditation 3:30 GST #223?	30 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Choir practice 6 p.m. GST #274?	31	GST = Girl Scout Troop

## April 2017 (this calendar subject to change)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 April Fool's Day
<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> 2 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion	3 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 p.m. BSA	4 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	5 6:30 <b>LAST</b> Lenten Potluck and meditation 3:30 GST #223	6 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Choir practice 6 p.m. GST #274	7 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship	8 <b>9 a.m. Spring Clean</b>
<i>Palm Sunday</i> OGHS 9 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Underwear offering ends	10 7 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. BSA	11 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	12 11:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 GST #223	13 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service 7 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. GST #274	14 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Service	15
<i>Easter</i> 16 7 a.m. Sunrise 7:45 a.m. Breakfast and egg hunt 11 a.m. Worship	17 7 p.m. Christian Ed 7 p.m. BSA	18 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	19 3:30 Girl Scout Troop #223	20 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Choir practice 6 p.m. GST #274	21	22
23 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	24 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. BSA	25 7 p.m. Cubs	26 11:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 GST #223	27 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Choir practice 6 p.m. GST #274	28 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Rummage sale set-up	29 8 a.m. to Noon Rummage Sale
30 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship						