

# *Mountain Proclamations*

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

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

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## *Black History Sunday*

**Sunday, February 5** we will celebrate Black History Sunday.

## *Scout Sunday*

Please welcome the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venture Crew on **Sunday, February 5** as they celebrate Scout Sunday with us. All scouts are welcome to attend no matter which troop, pack, or crew you belong to.

## *Women of the Church*

### *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. The sign-up sheet on the back table in the sanctuary is your "call", if you will. 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, in case you've never done it before. 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, located at the same table. 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.

You don't have to come to church early to do up the flowers, either. You can get a key from the church office and come in on Saturday afternoon to do them up, or, in the case of silk flowers, do them up anytime the church is open. Whatever works best for you.

### *Women's Fellowship*

All women of the church are invited to attend the Women's Fellowship Potluck Luncheons and meetings on the second Friday of the month at

noon, usually in the Fellowship Hall. Our theme for this year is "Running Toward Jesus".

Come and join in the laughter, fellowship and worship with us. For more information, contact the church office or Linda Miller.

With that in mind, the **February Women's Fellowship** potluck and meeting will be on **February 10th** at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The hostesses will be Betty Ashcraft and Mollie Marsh and worship will be led by Mollie Marsh.

### *Bible Study*

Women's Bible Study will be **Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30** and **Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 a.m.** in the Pastor's office. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

### *Curious?*

Would you like to know what's happening at Pilgrim Cove Camp? Would you like to know all the ins and outs of running such a beautiful piece of God's Country? Pilgrim Cove Camp Foundation Board will be meeting in our Fellowship Hall **10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** on **Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**. This is an open meeting and anyone interested in sitting in to listen and learn is more than welcome. If you have any questions about this meeting or camp in general, you may contact the church office or Ken Andersen.

### *Rev. Parker's last Sunday*

On **February 12<sup>th</sup>** Rev. Parker will deliver his Farewell Sermon as it is his last Sunday in the Pulpit. Come and support Truman and Terri as they begin their new life as retirees!

### *Rev. Drew Terry's first Sunday*

**Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**, will be Rev. Drew Terry's first Sunday in the pulpit. Come out and welcome our new pastor as we start a new chapter in the life of First Congregational Church, UCC or Mountain Home. There will be name tags for everyone, so please stop and pick yours up as you come in the door.

## Potluck to welcome Rev. Drew Terry

We do not normally have a potluck in February due to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, unless there is a special occasion. And this is definitely a special occasion.

**Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** will be our new pastor's first Sunday with us. In honor of this, there will be a potluck lunch after worship to welcome Rev. Drew Terry and his family into our family. The Women's Fellowship will supply a ham and the church family can supply the side dishes and desserts.

Speaking of desserts, Rose Pearsall will be making one of her beautiful cakes in honor of the occasion. As always ALL are welcome to the table.

## 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Banquet

The Mountain Home Community Black History Committee would like to invite you to attend their 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Banquet, with the theme of "Crisis in Black Education". The Keynote Speaker will be Most Worshipful Grand Master The Honorable Reverend Richard Vega of Las Vegas, Nevada.

The banquet will be held at The Elks Lodge, 325 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> West, on **Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:15.

Dress is semi-formal. Ticket donation is \$30 per person. Please RSVP by February 10.

## Remember Valentine's Day

Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, is Valentine's Day. Besides remembering that special some one in your life, take a moment and drop a card to some one in a local care center, the VA Hospital, or some one who is a shut-in with no one to remember them.

If you'd like to know who our shut-ins are, just call the office and we'll let you know.

## Deadline for March Proclamation

February is a short month, so please have all your Special Angels and articles for **March's Proclamation** to the church office by **February 16<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for your help.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on **Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m.** This is not a potluck; everything will be provided. We'll have sausage, ham and, of course, pancakes. This has always been an enjoyable tradition of fellowship time to prepare us for the Lenten season, so please come join us.

## Annual Reports Available

If you were unable to attend the Annual Meeting held on January 15th and would like a copy of the 2016 Annual Report, you can get a copy either from the bulletin table at the back of the sanctuary or go on-line to our website ([www.mhfccucc.org](http://www.mhfccucc.org)) and download a copy from the "Upcoming Services and Events" page.

You may also drop by the office and pick one up.

## Thank You

*From Truman*

To the Beloved Members of our Church,

Thank you for a wonderful send-off from active ministry and the First Congregational UCC. The warm memories of that evening will remain with me for the rest of my life.

Thank you also for all the love and affection you have shared with me through all these years. Ordination is a difficult path, but you have made my ministry in Mountain Home a time of joy and celebration.

Thank you also to all the people who work so hard, and imaginatively, to make Saturday evening so magical and wonderful.

I will carry you in my heart forever.

*Truman*

## *For the Celebration of Truman's Ministry*

To Curtis and Ann Carlin and Betty Ashcraft, for being the brain children of this wonderful occasion. All the planning, coordinating, contacting people, and more details that most folk even know about – Thank You!

To Betty Ashcraft, Al Foster, Carrie, Billy, and Josh Roeder, Allen, Heidi, and Patrick Harris for getting to the Elks Lodge early to set up and decorate Thank You!

To the Choir – for presenting one of Truman's favorite songs – Thank you!

To Rose Pearsall for baking and decorating not one beautiful cake, but **two** in celebration of a fine pastor – Thank you!

To Maurie Townsend for being the Master of Ceremonies and keeping things running smoothly – Thank you!

To Betty Ashcraft, Curtis Carlin, and Ann Carlin for keeping the pigs *going* as door prizes – Thank you!

To all who attended and joined in food, fellowship, and fun, in physical presence or in spirit – Thank you!

### *To all who sponsor bulletins*

What amazing generosity! Every Sunday of 2017 has been sponsored. Thank you to all who signed up. Remember, when you pay for your sponsorship, write in the memo line of your check that it is for bulletin sponsorship. If you remember which Sunday you sponsored, write that, too. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this.

### *Paper!*

Oh, how I love paper. Paper of all sizes. Thank you, Ken Hill, for the mega pack of 8.5 X 11 paper that we use for bulletins and letters. This will supply bulletin pages for weeks to come! Thank you.

### *The Annual Report*

I would like to thank everyone who had the responsibility of getting your committee or board's annual report to the office so that it could be compiled into the 2016 Annual Report. Everyone did a wonderful job of getting their reports to me in plenty of time to put it all together for the annual meeting. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

*Jennifer Andersen,  
Church Secretary*

### *The Manager's Monthly Minute from Pilgrim Cove Camp*

The managers of Pilgrim Cove Camp have started a wonderful new thing to keep us informed of the happenings of the camp. It's called the Manager's Monthly Minutes. They will be available on the back table, by the bulletins, in the sanctuary or on-line at our website, [www.mhfcucc.org](http://www.mhfcucc.org), on the Youth/Camp page.

## *Looking Ahead*

### *Ash Wednesday*

Ash Wednesday Service will be on **Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m.** here at the church.

### *Wednesday Lenten potluck and meditations*

Beginning on **Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**, we will have our traditional Wednesday Lenten Potluck and Meditation. Beginning at **6 p.m.** we will share in a potluck supper. Please bring food to share and your place setting. Beverages will be provided.

**At 6:30**, we will begin the Lenten meditation, which will be based on the book *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why* by Adam Hamilton.

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.

### *One Great Hour of Sharing*

The One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten offering will begin soon! Watch the bulletin and website for offering ideas. Offering will be taken on **Palm Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**.

### *The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering*

This Lenten offering will also be taken on **Palm Sunday**. New undergarments of any kind, size, or gender for the under-privileged of the Mountain Home area.

### *Annual Rummage Sale*

The Women's Fellowship Annual Rummage Sale for 2017 is scheduled for **April 29<sup>th</sup>**. Now is the time to start cleaning out those garages, attics, basements, storage units, and spare bedrooms for those gently used items that help the ladies make this sale possible. If you have any questions or would like to lend a hand – men or women – please contact Linda Miller.

### *Vacation Bible School*

We normally start thinking about Vacation Bible School around this time, but not this year. First Congregational, UCC is taking a break from organizing Vacation Bible School until the summer of 2019. At this time, we have not heard if either of the other two churches will be able to pick up this task. As soon as we know more, we will be sure to let the church family know.

## *Birthdays in February*

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Julianne Mori      | 18 Betty Ashcraft  |
| 5 Jo Gridley         | 18 Betty Parks     |
| 7 Joshua Roeder      | 19 Eddie Bush      |
| 10 Victoria Dillard  | 19 Raffael Lichdi  |
| 10 Lawrence Pearsall | 19 Windy Osborn    |
| 10 Janet Weise       | 19 Chris Paille    |
| 11 Susan Mussler     | 21 Marci Hamada    |
| 12 Anna Bergstol     | 21 Dena Olson      |
| 12 Merrilee Hiler    | 21 Elizabeth Parks |
| 12 Alice Keas        | 24 Lucas Marsh     |
| 14 Jim Blanksma      | 24 Nadine Roberts  |
| 14 Clayton Colthorp  | 25 Sue Baumgardner |
| 17 Janet Biggs       | 26 Jakob Lichdi    |
| 17 Sam Hooley        | 27 Sara Duty       |
| 28 Joe Joseph        |                    |

## *Anniversaries in February*

17 Jennifer & Ken Andersen

## *Special Angels for February*

### LITURGISTS (Tony Deal)

5 – Heidi Harris  
12 – Jennifer Andersen  
19 – Tony Deal  
26 – Chris Paille

### GREETERS (Curtis Carlin)

5 – Ken Hill  
12 – Vicki and Chuck Eckenrod  
19 – The Pearsall Family  
26 – Heidi and Allen Harris

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up sheet)

5 – Betty Ashcraft and Youth  
12 – Carrie Roeder  
19 – Potluck  
26 – Heidi Harris

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Betty Ashcraft)

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

### USHERS (Ann Carlin)

### FLOWERS (Sign-Up Sheet)

5 – Betty Ashcraft  
12 – Mollie Marsh  
19 – Rose Pearsall  
26 – Nadine Roberts

### PARAMENTS (Heidi and Allen Harris)

### COMMUNION (Heidi Harris)

## *From our new Pastor*

Greetings dear loved ones of Mountain Home!

It is with great joy and excitement I write to you. We are about to start a new journey together. Strangely, it begins on the eve of Lent. Personally, I 'd prefer a more naturally joyful season such as summer, Advent, or Easter to begin wonderful new life. Yet, here we are and I have always found it fun to learn from surprising circumstances.

I traditionally have seen Lent as a time of fasting and repentance. I love Lent because it offers a space to struggle with God, self, and others. The practice lends hope for a deeper awareness of God's eternal power, mercy and intimate love. I do not immediately understand Lent as a time of joy.

However, our circumstances as well as the wisdom of a beloved colleague, help me hear God's voice anew. Lent is also a time for reflecting on Christian life, and assessing how we are able to truly live out God's love. The embrace of new relationships is a magnificent time for self-discovery as well as deepening awareness of the Divine.

God is calling us together on a new spiritual adventure. This will require us to share the fullness of life with one another. First, we must get to know one another. Our first Lent will be a wonderful, mysterious time of learning about who God has made and called us to be. These will be necessary for us to embrace one another and live out our Christian ministry.

Mark's version of the wilderness story, the essential Lent narrative, is my favorite. All it tells us is that Jesus was driven by the Spirit into the desert, was tempted, and was under the care of angels. The brevity and ambiguity leave the tale in mystery with an infinite amount of possibilities. Mark does tell us the result of what happened was Christ's transformative ministry.

What the journey has ahead of us we are uncertain. Faith proclaims the Spirit leads us to this path. We are wise enough to know there will be challenges. Our hope and prayer is that the love of God and the care of angels will hold us together in peace. Whatever happens we have one another, Christ, and God's call. Together we will live out our called ministry.

Let the Divine adventure begin!

*Blessings*  
*Drew Terry*