

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfcucc.org

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churchinfo@mhfcucc.org

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<<<Changes to the Mountain Proclamations>>>

In an effort to be good stewards of our resources, effective with the **March** issue, we are moving to posting the monthly newsletter, *Mountain Proclamations*, in an electronic format – meaning we will **email** your newsletter to you as well as continue to put it on the website, www.mhfcucc.org

*****If you would still like to continue receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, there will be two ways that you may do this: *****

- 1) pick up a copy from church on Sunday
OR
- 2) have it continue to be mailed to your home by the U.S. Postal Service.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table with the Fellowship and Flower sign-up sheets for you to **“Opt-In”** for a paper copy and which way you would like to do it. *If you cannot come to church or are one of our many out of town members, please call [(208)587-4969] or email us (churchinfo@mhfcucc.org) to let us know your choice.*

Thank you for your cooperation with this project.

Community Concert

The Community Christmas Concert will be held here at First Congregational Church on **Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 7 p.m.** If you cannot attend the concert on Sunday night, you may also hear it Thursday, Nov. 30th at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Friday, December 1 at 7 p.m. or Saturday, December 2 at 3 p.m. at the LDS Church Crèche Exhibit on 790 South Haskett.

Giving Tree Tags

Hello one and all, it is that time of year again. As a lot of you know Ann Carlin has been doing the Giving Tree since 2005, and our church has been blessed enough to be able to take part in it with her. This program is very near and dear to her heart as it helps children to have something under the tree on Christmas Day. If you would like to take a tag or two, please see Ann either before or after church services every Sunday from Nov. 19th to Dec. 10th. All tags and items

purchased **MUST** be back to the church no later than Dec. 13th as Ann & Curtis have to turn the items on Dec. 15th, which is the deadline for the Giving Tree program this year.

*Sincerely,
Ann Carlin
Giving Tree Coordinator
First Congregational Church*

*******All the tags have been given out! Thank you so much for your generosity. Please have your gifts to the church by Wednesday, December 13th. *******

Poinsettias

You may start bringing in your live poinsettias. If your poinsettia is to be shared as a memorial or dedication listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin, be sure to give this information to the church office by **Monday, December 18th**. Forms will be available on the back bulletin table. Poinsettias may be dropped off at the church office Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or brought in on Sunday mornings. Please put your name on them if you want them back after Christmas. You may take your plant home any time after our Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Christmas Bazaar

Christmas Bazaar Set up

Set up for the 2017 Christmas Bazaar will be **Friday, December 1st**, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. This is the time to bring in your handcrafted items and baked goods. This is also when some muscle is needed to help set up tables and transform the Fellowship Hall into a holiday wonderland of really nifty items for a unique Christmas celebration. Please help if you can.

Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar

The Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar will be held on **Saturday, December 2, 2017**, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm. There will be homemade goodies of all kinds and pies with coffee and tea in Horner's Corner. Besides goodies to eat, handmade crafts and needlework and gift items will be available for purchase. Come join us and bring friends and neighbors. Get your Christmas baked goodies here and unique gift items for those very special people on your Christmas list.

If you have something to contribute to the Bazaar, contact the church office or one of the ladies from the Women's Fellowship.

For the Women of the Church

Women's Fellowship Christmas Party and recycled gift exchange

It's Christmastime! All ladies of the church are invited to attend the Women's Fellowship's Christmas luncheon/meeting. We will gather on **Friday, December 8th** at 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck meal followed by a short meeting. Mildred McNeal and Dorraine Aggen will be our hostesses and the new officers' installation will be done by Rev. Terry. Then we will enjoy a recycled gift exchange! Gifts are not to be purchased, but re-gifted, gently used or handmade! For more information, contact Linda Miller.

Women's Bible Study

Due to the holiday busy-ness, there will not be a Women's Bible Study in December. They will begin a new study at the January 10th meeting at 11 a.m. – the perfect time to join in.

Christmas Program

Remembering our past as we celebrate tradition. Our church has thrived for 125 years thanks to a loving, generous, and energetic congregation. From the time of the pioneering west, through world wars, depression, and social upheaval, the First Congregational Church has remained steadfast in Christian community.

On December 17, we look back at the beginnings of the First Congregational Church in Mountain Home. As Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt what a small group of committed citizens can accomplish." Letters from the original congregation in 1892-1903 paint a picture of a dedicated congregation intent on bringing a viable church to Mountain Home. These letters are the basis of the play depicting the formation, the ministers, and the building of the church. Join us as we celebrate 125 years of worship with our beloved church family.

**Practices will be held from 9:50 – 10:20 Sunday December 3rd, 10th and 17th.

Christmas Luncheon

On **Sunday, December 17th**, we will have our Christmas potluck immediately following the worship service. The Church will provide the Christmas ham and you can bring the side dishes and desserts as well as your own place setting. Come and enjoy good food and good fellowship.

Christmas Schedule

There will be no Sunday School on December 24th and December 31st. There will not be a Christian Education meeting in December.

Christmas Eve Service

On **Sunday evening, December 24th, at 8:00 p.m.** we will hold our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service. Come join us on this special and holy night of nights as we celebrate the birth of Christ with music, fellowship and the telling of the story that never grows old.

Treasurer's Report

November 2017

We continue to be a giving church body as shown by the amount of funds that are donated to our Special Offerings in the amount of \$3005.00 These include One Great Hour of Sharing (769.00), Blankets (467.00), Strengthen the Church (\$189.00), Neighbors in Need (\$416.00), Tornado and Storms (\$964.00), and Christmas Fund (\$200.00). However, we also need to keep in mind the expenses of this church body in maintaining our programs, the church building, and our basic operation.

As of November 19, 2017, we have received \$101,347.00 which included any dedicated funds and our expenses have been \$101,541.00. The balance in the checkbook is \$15,951.77; these include dedicated funds that cannot be used for anything other than what the giver has intended. Quarterly payments to taxes and insurance have been paid as well as payroll.

Please be aware that if donations are intended to be included in this year's giving, they must be in the church office or post marked by the end of December 31, 2017.

This year I will be passing the Treasurer's position to Eddie Bush. I have been privileged to be the Church Treasurer and will continue to support the church in any way I can.

Grace Townsend
Treasurer

Thank you

Leon Gaub

Thank you goes out to Leon Gaub for updating our "time-line" pictures that are hanging in the adult Sunday school area in the Fellowship Hall. The addition of Pastor Drew's name is flawless.

Directory Help

Thank you to Chris Paille who helped with the sign-ups for pictures, Linda Ramsey for updating the photography schedule with Life Touch, Gail Banner, Beth DeVore, Betty Ashcraft, for being here on Friday and Nancy Sobien, Betty Ashcraft and Rita Olson for being here on Saturday to greet people and assist the photographers with the paperwork.

Pie Auction

The pie auction on Nov 19th brought a whopping \$1,317! Thank you to all of the bakers for donating such scrumptious pies. A special thank you to Linda Miller for the beautiful quilted table runners, pot holders, and cute apron. Also thank you to Bob Roberts for his humorous auctioneering!

Most of all, a big thank you to our generous bidders. Proceeds from the auction will go toward many church projects.

*Nadine Roberts
Women's Fellowship*

Thanksgiving Dinner

We held our annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Pledge drive on Sunday, November 19th, 2017 in the Fellowship Hall; there were 106 people present at this festive occasion, with meals being delivered to 12 shut-ins, for a total of 118 people. Everyone who attended had great food and fellowship.

An event like this takes more than just two people, so Curtis and I would like to thank EVERYONE who helped to set up the tables during and after church on November 19th. We would also like to thank EVERYONE who brought food to put on our Thanksgiving Table. A huge 'THANK-YOU' goes out to Maurie & Grace Townsend, Sherry & Eddie Bush, Betty Ashcraft & Al Foster and Frank & Mollie Marsh for taking time out of their evening to deliver meals to the shut-ins. "THANK YOU" to Lawrence Pearsall for cutting all the turkeys while everyone else was getting things together. "THANK YOU" to all those who cooked the turkeys for the dinner. Last but not least a huge 'THANK-YOU' goes out EVERYONE who helped to set the food up, serve the food and then clean-up after the meal was over, without their help it would be near impossible to put on an event like this.

Curtis and I would also like to express how honored we are to belong to such a loving, caring and giving church. Belonging to a church such as the First Congregational Church is a true blessing to not just us but everyone who walks through its doors. Thank you again EVERYONE for making this another great Thanksgiving Dinner and Pledge Drive.

*Sincerely yours,
Ann and Curtis Carlin
Social Committee*

Church note: Thank you Curtis and Ann for all your hard work putting together the Thanksgiving Dinner for so many years.

Lee Wright and Sherry Bush

Over 25 years. That's about how long Lee Wright has been sharing his bounty and creative talent with the church family. While Sherry hasn't been helping *all* that time, she has been helping Lee for many, many years also.

Thank you both for all the wonderful harvest decorations in the church during the month of November. It was a vivid reminder of God's bounty.

Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross

On **December 24th** we will take our *Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross* offering. This year's theme is "Shepherding the Light".

See the website (www.christmasfund.org) and the bulletin inserts for all the wonderful things that the Christmas Fund does for our active and retired clergy and their families.

Pledges for 2018

If you missed the Pledge Blessing Service on November 19th and you haven't had a chance to turn in your pledge card, no worries. Just bring it to church with you any Sunday and drop it in the offering plate or mail it back to us in the envelope provided with the Stewardship Letter you received.

You lost your card? The church has more on the back table in the sanctuary or call the office.

All Boards and Committees

Year-end Annual Reports are due in the office by **January 8, 2018**, earlier if possible, so they can be prepared for distribution at our Annual Meeting on **January 21st**.

Bulletin Sponsors

There are 22 Sundays left for sponsoring a 2018 bulletin. Sign-up sheets are on the back table in the Sanctuary or you can contact the office Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sponsoring bulletins is a way to help make our financial resources go just a bit farther. Last year we filled every Sunday. Each sponsorship costs \$10, payable when you can between now and the end of 2018 – please make a notation on your check. Your name will be printed in the bulletin you choose to sponsor. If you wish to remain anonymous, please be sure to note that on the sign-up sheet.

In Loving Memory

Clayton Dean Colthorp
February 14, 1934 – October 31, 2017

In Sympathy

To the Eddie Bush family on the loss of his
mother, Betty.

Birthdays in December

2 – Richard Bush	21 – Maurie Townsend
4 – Klara Lichdi	22 – Truman Parker
7 – Michael Marten	24 – Brent Garretson
15 – Lee Wright	26 – Bud Weise
20 – John Estes	29 – Rose Dillard

Anniversaries in December

8 – Sue and Wade Baumgardner
9 – Sherry and Eddie Bush
18 – Diana and Dale Hooley
28 – Rita and David Olson
29 – Grace and Maurie Townsend

Special Angels for December

LITURGISTS (Tony Deal)

3 – Lawrence Pearsall
10 – Mollie Marsh
17 – Heidi Harris
24 – Tony Deal
31 – Debi Deal

GREETERS (Gail Corlett-Trueba)

3 – Maurie and Grace Townsend
10 – Lawrence and Rose Pearsall
17 – Gene and Susan Mussler
24 – Joe and Mildred McNeal
31 – Mickie Betts

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

3 – Rose Pearsall
10 – Lauren Tomsic
17 – Christmas Luncheon
24 –
31 –

FLOWERS (sign-up sheet)

Christmas Décor

ADVENT CANDLE

Children of the Church

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE

The Pearsall Family

CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Sign-up Sheet)

3 – Communion – no Children's Church
10 – Heidi Harris
17 – Betty Ashcraft
24 – Ken Andersen
31 – Jade Terry

USHERS (Ann Carlin)

FLOWERS (Christmas décor)

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Heidi Harris)

From Our Pastor

Greetings beloved in Christ,

The ancient Hebrew word for hope was etymologically rooted with the same word as rope. Hope was the tightness of a rope to pull one out of a deep pit. Ancient Israelite language and culture conceived the Divine promise of hope as salvation from the worst trappings.

My Hebrew professor eloquently explained this to our class. He then immediately offered a passionate rant about how hope is not rainbows and sunshine. It is about human anguish and pain. Hope, as born from the ancestors of faith, is the power to lift us from the depths of fear and bring us to renewed life.

This December we will be reflecting on our hopes for new life. Our community and all people of faith need hope. The month of Advent and Christmas reminds us of the commitment and prayer required to seek God's promise. Darkness shrouds our world in literal and metaphorical ways. Some are like kings seeking wisdom and others are weary workers yearning for affirmation. There are even young, socially marginalized families wanting to fulfill their civic and religious duties. Our community comes together from the long journey in one place to give praise for God's fulfillment.

There will be new posters throughout the fellowship hall for us to collectively name our hopes. What new life are we seeking? Do we journey together for wisdom? Do we come revitalize our service to those in need? Do we come to be transformed for a new day? Do we long for healing we have thought was not possible? Do we yearn for new and renewed relationships to bring forth God's life giving call? Is our star a love we can find nowhere else, and have faith we can live and share abundantly?

I pray hope fills your season to lift you up.

Blessings
Rev. Drew Terry

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 1 – 5 Set up for Bazaar	2 8 a.m. to Noon Christmas Bazaar
<i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 3 9:50 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion <u>Diaconate mtg.</u> 7 p.m. Concert	4 3:30 GSA 7 BSA	5 7 p.m. Cubs	6 10 – Noon Coffee with Drew 3:30 GSA	7 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Family Advocacy 6 Bell practice 7 Choir practice	8 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship potluck and mtg.	9
<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 10 9:50 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	11 3:30 GSA 7 BSA 7 Trustees mtg	12 7 Cubs	13 10 – Noon Coffee with Drew at the Public Library 3:30 GSA	14 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Family Advocacy 6 Bell practice 7 Choir practice	15	16
<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 17 9:50 a.m. S.S. 11 a.m. Worship w/Christmas Program Christmas Luncheon	18 3:30 GSA 7 BSA	19 7 Cubs	20 10 – Noon Coffee with Drew at the Public Library 3:30 GSA	21 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Family Advocacy 6 Bell practice 7 Choir practice	22	23
<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 24 11 a.m. Worship 8 p.m. Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Office Closed	26	27	28 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Family Advocacy	29	30
31 New Year's Eve 11 a.m. Worship						

January 2018 (subject to change)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day Office closed	2	3 10 – Noon Coffee with Drew	4 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. <u>Family Advocacy</u> 6 Bell practice 7 Choir practice	5	6
7 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion <u>Diaconate Board mtg.</u>	8 3:30 GSA 7 BSA	9 7 p.m. Cubs	10 10 – Noon Coffee with Drew 3:30 GSA	11 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. <u>Family Advocacy</u> 6 Bell practice 7 Choir practice	12 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship potluck and mtg.	13
14 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	15 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed	16 7 p.m. Cubs	17 10 – Noon Coffee with Drew 3:30 GSA	18 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. <u>Family Advocacy</u> 6 Bell practice 7 Choir practice	19	20
21 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Annual Meeting	22 3:30 GSA 7 BSA	23 7 p.m. Cubs	24 10 – Noon Coffee with Drew 3:30 GSA	25 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. <u>Family Advocacy</u> 6 Bell practice 7 Choir practice	26	27
28 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Christian Ed Meeting	29 3:30 GSA 7 BSA 7 p.m. Church Council	30 7 p.m. Cubs	31 10 – Noon Coffee with Drew 3:30 GSA	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. <u>Family Advocacy</u> 6 Bell practice 7 Choir practice		

