

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfccucc.org

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churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Volume 50- Issue 1

Welcome, New Members

During the November 27th worship service, our church family was joined by two more members. A warm welcome to:

Ron Martin
Lawrence Pearsall

Meeting change

The *December* meeting of the Church Council will be held after worship on Sunday, January 8th. **2016** Chairpersons and moderator/vice moderator should attend this meeting.

Would you like to participate?

If you would like to participate in the program for Truman's retirement ceremony/celebration, please contact Maurie Townsend or give your name to the office. There will be a meeting after worship on Sunday, January 15th, to discuss and organize the program.

Women of the Church

Fellowship and Flowers

Thank you to all the wonderful people who signed up to host fellowship hours and/or set out altar flowers during 2016.

If you missed your chance to do one or both of these things for the church family last year or you really enjoyed doing it last year and would like to do it again, you will find the sign-up sheets for 2017 on the back table in the sanctuary to the left of the accordion doors. Please take a moment and pick your Sunday.

Women's Fellowship

Our Women's Fellowship will kick off the new year with a potluck luncheon followed by the meeting at noon on **Friday, January 13th** in the Fellowship Hall. If you have been thinking of joining Women's Fellowship, the start of the new year would be a really good time to start.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study for January will be the second and fourth **Wednesdays** of the month, **January 11th and 25th**. We are beginning the study of Esther. If you would like to join us for this new study, it will be helpful to read the book of Esther before the first study. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Prayer Breakfast

The annual prayer breakfast honoring the Rev. Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. will be held on **Saturday, January 14, 2017 at 8 a.m.** at the Elks Lodge. The keynote speaker will be Angelis Taylor, a graduate of Mountain Home High School.

This event is sponsored by the Mountain Home Community Black Committee. Tickets are available for a \$15 donation from Joe B. McNeal or Mildred McNeal.

UCC Winter Family Camp Feb. 3 – 5, 2017

Winter Family Get-a-way

\$50 per person. Includes:

2 nights stay

All meals (Friday dinner,

Saturday – 3 meals, Sunday breakfast and lunch)

Highlights at the camp:

Snow shoeing

Tubing downhill

Saturday movie night

Highlights in McCall

Winter Carnival

Brundage Ski resort

RSVP: by Jan 15th, 2016 to Kari and Lori, Camp Managers

By phone at (208)634 – 5555

Or by email to: Manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 15th**, immediately following our worship service. This is an important meeting as we will vote on our final budget for 2017. Please plan to attend so that we may have a quorum.

If your board or committee has not yet gotten their Annual Report into the office, you still have a *tiny* bit of time. Please get them to the office by **Wednesday, January 4th**. You can email them as a Word document to churchinfo@mhfccucc.org or bring them into the office as a hard copy.

Potluck Sunday

Our monthly church potluck luncheon will be on the third Sunday of the month (**January 15th**) immediately following our annual meeting. Bring your own table setting and, if you are able to, something to share. All are welcome, no matter what.

Celebrating 40 years of Dedicated Service

Rev. Truman E. Parker's retirement celebration will be **Saturday, January 28, 2017** at the Elks Lodge from 5 – 9 p.m. Social hour will begin at 5 with dinner served at 6. This will be a semi-formal sit-down meal. Previously purchased tickets are a requirement for the dinner.

All are invited to the program portion of the celebration – no ticket required! This portion will begin approximately 7 p.m.

Thank You

Hanging of the Greens

I would like to thank everyone who came and helped with the hanging of the greens on November 26th. Because of all who came we had the greens up in no time. Again, THANK YOU to everyone who showed up to help.

*Sincerely,
Curtis L. Carlin
Chairman, Diaconate Board*

To the anonymous donor

To the person donated a mega pack of copy paper on November 27th. This donation will help keep those bulletins a-comin'.

To Oledeen Bermensolo

Thank you Oledeen for providing a replacement table cloth for the bulletin table. The previous one sort of vanished and Deen saw a need a took care of it. Thank you for your generosity, Deen.

From the Women's Fellowship

The Woman's Fellowship gives thanks for all the faithful people who turned out over a two-day period to set up, run, and break down, our annual bazaar. Also a big thank you to those of you who provided items for sale, without you we couldn't have a bazaar. A special thank you to Molly Marsh who baked our cinnamon rolls. We could not have managed the event without the generous help of so many people.

Our bazaar was a great success this year. We raised about \$2,426.25. Woman's Fellowship uses the money it earns from its various events to support different programs around the church: the scholarship fund; kitchen supplies; staffing the nursery; and special projects such as purchasing a new copier for the office.

A church is a community, and the bazaar is one result of the community working together for a common goal.

Thank you again to everyone who lent a hand.

Christmas Spirit? Let's Hear it!

"Christmas Spirit? Let's Hear It!" showcased the talents of twelve children in our Sunday School program. The cast included: Angelina Pearsall, Zoey Pearsall, Samantha Pearsall, Meadow Fogleman, Autumn Fogleman, Charles Fogleman, Courtney Fogleman, Brooke Aguirre, Matthew Dillon Campos, Avalynn Bixler, Keanah Newton, and Sunnie Marx. We are grateful to Marlene Osborn who accompanied the cast to keep us all in tune. Betty Ashcraft directed with help from Rose Pearsall who made the creative snowmen as gifts for the children for their hard work. Thank you, Debi Deal for general all around help with the children. Of course, the morning was capped off by a visit from Santa who gave out candy canes to the delight of the children.

The Christian Education committee truly appreciates all of the parents and grandparents who bring their children to Sunday School and encourage them to participate in the activities designed to teach them about the life of Jesus Christ. We welcome all children whenever they can join us. Sunday School will resume January 8 at 10:00 am after the holidays.

The Christian Education Committee

Thank you, **Betty Ashcraft**, for all your inspiration, energy, and hard work putting this together. We are blessed, indeed, to have you.

The Giving Tree

It has been 12 years since I started working with the Giving Tree Program through the Chamber of Commerce here in Mountain Home, and in those 12 years our church has helped many, many children to have a great Christmas. Curtis and I are blessed to be members of such a caring, giving and loving church. May God continue to bless each and every one of you.

Now on to the business at hand. I would like to take this time to thank **EVERY** person who took a tag or two for the Giving Tree Program this year. We were able to help 26 children to have an awesome Christmas. It means the world to me to be able to make Christmas wonderful for all these children. I would also like to take the time to thank the ladies of Epsilon Sigma Alpha for helping 10 more children to have a great Christmas. They also made a donation to the Giving Tree Program to help other children. My heart is full because of all of you that selflessly gave to such a worthy cause. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

*Warmest Regards,
Ann Carlin
Giving Tree Coordinator
First Congregational Church*

Thank you, **Ann**, for all the hard work you put into coordinating this event every year. We are blessed to have you.

A Beautiful Christmas Eve Service

Thank you to all who worked to make the Christmas Eve service so beautiful: all the members of the Diaconate Board; the Bell Choir; the Chancel Choir; Dorraine Aggen, our organist; Ruth Schreiner, our pianist; Brent Garretson, our soloist, all the candle lighters; all the readers of the Christmas story; and all those who dedicated poinsettias. And of course, all who came to celebrate this most Holy of Nights. You made the season a bright one for all of us.

To Eddie Bush

The time has come to replace the printer/copier in the office. After months of the secretary trying to make heads or tails out of quotes and features and one-time-good-deals, while still trying to do what needs to be done in the office, Eddie Bush graciously took over the tedious job of hunting down the best printer/copier for the best price for the church. And he accomplished it in less than a month.

Thank you, Eddie, for all the footwork you put into securing a new printer/copier for the church office. Both your work and the copier are much appreciated!

Food Bank

A big thank you to all of those who bring in food for the Big Blue Bucket. Just about every Sunday there are canned goods, dry good staples, personal hygiene products, paper products, pet food – you name it – in the bucket to be transported to El-Ada for distribution. This is such an important ministry, especially *after* the holidays when the needy become invisible again. Thank you for *always* caring.

Thank you to Mickie Betts who checks the bucket every week and takes it to El-Ada for us.

Directory Correction

Please note the following correction in the Church Directory:

Joyce and Harris Allgood
Phone number: Contact office for correct number

Pledge cards

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to sit down and fill out your pledge card and Time and Talent pledge card and mail it in or put it in the offering plate. These pledge cards help us plan the budget and the Time and Talent cards help us share the load to make each church service run smoothly. Extra cards are available in the church office. Thank you to those who have already turned theirs in.

Anniversaries for January

1 Nadine and Bob Roberts
1 Sylvia and Fred Sisneros
18 Rose and Frank Dillard
31 Linda and Philip Miller

Birthdays for January

5 Alan Estes 18 Harold Henderson
6 Skip Sobien 18 Frank Marsh
11 Richard Townsend 18 David Olson
13 Charle Spellman 20 Jeannine Nelson
14 Charles Olson 21 Brian Nelson
14 Jenipher Warner 21 Angelina Pearsall
23 Lee Kaufman

Special Angels for January

LITURGISTS (Tony Deal)

1 – Maurie Townsend
8 – Debi Deal
15 – Lawrence Pearsall
22 – Tony Deal
29 – Grace Townsend

GREETERS (Heidi Harris)

1 – Wade Baumgardner
8 – Ann and Curtis Carlin
15 – Allen and Heidi Harris
22 – Billy and Carrie Roeder
29 – Curt and Susanne Ohlsen
FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up sheet)

1 – Linda and Phil Miller
8 –
15 – Potluck
22 – Carrie Roeder
29 –

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

1 – Heidi Harris
8 – Communion – No Children’s Church
15 – Betty Ashcraft
22 – Ken Andersen
29 – Terri Jones

USHERS (Ken Hill)

FLOWERS (Sign-up sheet)

1 – Christmas Décor
8 – Christmas Décor
15 – Linda Miller
22 – Linda Miller
29 – Linda Miller

PARAMENTS (Allen Harris)

COMMUNION (Communion)

From the Pastor

The Christ of Revelation cries out to the dejected and discouraged churches of Asia, “Behold! I am making all things new.” (Rev. 21:5)

This is a proclamation that has intrigued me since I first encountered it forty-five years ago in my Introduction to New Testament course. Throughout my ministry I have come back to it time and time again.

John of Patmos meant this literally: The old creation, dominated by a cruel and corrupt Rome, will pass away and be replaced by a whole new creation. It is nothing less than a universal renewal.

For John of Patmos and his early 2nd century church this proclamation is the distillation of the ultimate hope of the Christian faith.

Fortunately, our lives are not lived at quite that peak of apocalyptic expectation. We don’t necessarily want, much less need, a whole new creation.

My divinity school politely insisted that along with my scriptural studies I needed to take a number of courses in counseling and psychology.

The psychologists suggest that no matter how hard we try to put the past behind us we carry it along with us wherever we go. In Transactional Analysis jargon it is called “reverting to old scripts.”

I am not certain how well I would adjust to a whole new world. As I look back into my past it is evident there were a number of decisions and experiences I wish I had avoided, but there are a much larger number of incidents and events that have been exciting, fun, nurturing, and enriching.

And, I must admit, adversity and miscalculation taught me much more than I ever learned from success or lucky guesses.

As I delve deeper into this Advent season I recognize it is the last one I will spend as a professional minister. In a few short weeks I will have a whole new life, as will our church community. In all honesty I look forward to discovering what this new life will look and feel like.

But, unlike John’s vision of a whole new creation, I carry my professional past with me into the future.

One of the highest honors of my career was being called to the pulpit of First Congregational Church. This community has nourished me and enriched my soul. Of the four pastorates I have served this one has been the most enjoyable, and if I dare say it, the most fun.

I am so grateful for all the people who encouraged and supported me over the course of this twenty-three year odyssey. I pray that in the coming new era of this congregation my successor’s pastorate will be as fruitful, harmonious, and just plain fun, as mine has been.

No matter where I end up on my personal journey, this community of the people of God will always remain first in my heart.

Terri joins me in wishing all of you a warm, light-filled Christmas and a joyful new year.

TEP