

Mountain Proclamations

a publication of the First Congregational, 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.*

If you wish to receive the newsletter by email, please be sure the church office has your preferred email address. Send an email to churchinfo@mhfcucc.org to confirm this information.

Books for upcoming Adult Christian Education

There will be a new book for the Adult Sunday School to use for their study after Christmas, beginning the last week of January or the first week of February, depending on how long it takes us to finish our current project. It is *Reality, Grief, Hope: Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks* by Walter Brueggemann. There will be 7 copies available. If you wish to make a donation to defray the cost of the books, each book is \$11.

The book we are using for the Lenten meditation beginning February 21st will be *The Stories We Live* by Kathleen A. Cahalan. There will be 7 copies available. If you wish to make a donation to defray the cost of the books, each book is \$12.

You can also purchase your own copy of either book through Amazon, Barnes and Nobles or any outlet of your choice. Both books are also available electronically.

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 2017.

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 2018 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 12th** 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 10th and 24th**. We are beginning the video Bible study “Wrestling with Angels”. A study guide will be provided. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Prayer Breakfast

MLK50 FORWARD: TOGETHER WE WIN WITH LOVE FOR HUMANITY

Honoring the life and accomplishments of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Date: **Saturday ~ January 13, 2018**

Place: Elks Lodge 325 South 3rd West ~ Mountain Home, Idaho

Guest Speaker: Wendy J. Olsen Former United States Attorney for the District of Idaho

Doors open at 7:30 AM ~ Breakfast: 8:00 AM

Donation: \$15.00 Per Person ~ Dress: Business Casual

RSVP by: January 10, 2018. Tickets may be purchased from Joe McNeal, Mildred McNeal, CD Houston, any committee member or call 587-3227

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 21st** immediately following our worship service. This is an important meeting as we will vote on our final budget for 2018. 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 **Monday, January 8th**. You can email them as a Word document to churchinfo@mhfccucc.org or bring them into the office as a hard copy.

UCC Winter Family Camp Feb. 2 – 4, 2018

Mark your calendars for the Winter Friends and Family camp in February. This year's camp will be held the last weekend of Carnival, Feb. 2nd - 4th. The cost is \$75/person and includes 2 nights lodging and up to 5 meals. Use us as home base as you enjoy activities around town or simply hang out here at camp and enjoy the beauty of winter at the lake. Please contact us for more information or to make a reservation. We anticipate spots to be go quickly. If you have a group to come up, that would be great as we would like to fill rooms rather than just house 2-3 per room. BUT either way is wonderful too! RSVP: to Kari and Lori, Camp Managers
By phone at (208)634 – 5555
Or by email to: Manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org

Potluck Sunday

Our monthly church potluck luncheon will be on the third Sunday of the month (**January 21st**) 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.

Thank You

To Betty Parks

Since 1967, Betty Parks has shared her musical abilities with the First Congregational Church family. She started out playing the organ for the Sunday school classes and the moved to taking her turn at the organ for worship services. Thank you, Betty, for 50 years of dedication to the church and to God to help us sing a new song to the Lord.

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 Linda Miller for My New Purple Stole

Linda Miller generously made me a beautiful new stole. These are the sashes I wear every Sunday, wedding, memorial service, and other worship services. Purple is the color used during Lent and Advent to mark the special occasion of these seasons. You have seen me wear this particular one on Sunday Dec. 24th at the 11 am service. I will wear it again multiple Sundays during the season of Lent. I am grateful to you, Linda, for giving me one that is personal and gorgeous. It is a magnificent reminder of the people God has called me to serve, and the love we all share together in doing Christ's ministry.

Thank you
Rev. Drew

Copy paper

I love these kinds of surprises. Thank you to whoever left a mega pack of copy paper for the church on Sunday, December 3. Your donation is much appreciated and *very* helpful

Thank you, Barb Fogleman, for the donation of 8.5 X 14 paper. While not used every day, it is used for this newsletter, therefore *very much* appreciated.

Giving Tree

I started working with the Giving Tree Program through the Chamber of Commerce here in Mountain Home in 2005, and in those 13 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 30 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. 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*

Christmas Program

Christmas 2017 celebrated our church's 125 anniversary with a performance by the Congregational Players depicting the formation of the First Congregational church of Mountain Home. Laced with a little humor and a lot of history, the play, written by Betty Ashcraft, told the story of the search for a minister in 1892 and the building of the church in 1903. Letters from the children were found in the church's cornerstone and we learned how they earned money to put toward the building fund along with the parents and other members of the church. Our cast did an incredible job of portraying the original members of the church. Many thanks to Betty Ashcraft, Maury Townsend, Jennifer Dillenbeck, Nancy Sobien, Mollie Marsh, Rose Pearsall, Lawrence Pearsall, Al Foster, Tony Deal, Frank Marsh, Ken Hill, Phil Miller, and Todd Paille for memorable performances. Our children who sang and told their stories to the delight of the audience, were Angelina Pearsall, Zoey Pearsall, Samantha Pearsall, Avalynn Bixler, Sunnie Marx, Kassidy Carpentier, Nolan Freeman, and Hunter Dillenbeck.

Editor's Note: And a special thank you to Betty Ashcraft, who put in the hard work of writing the program and directing it.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was wonderful. We had great music by both the Chancel Choir and the Bell Choir. Pastor Drew's opening meditation was inspirational. Thank you to all the readers: Diane Venski, Heidi Harris, Lawrence Pearsall, Ken Hill, Joe B. McNeal, and Chris Paille; you all did a great job. Thank you Diane Venski, Alvaree Venski and Sarah Venski for putting together the candles and greeting everyone who came to the service. Thank you to all Diaconate Board members who attended and helped where needed. Thank you to those who set up all the poinsettia's before the service started, and all those who donated them. The night was enchanting and enlightening.

*Sincerely,
Curtis L. Carlin
Diaconate Board Chairman*

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. This is such an important ministry, especially *after* the holidays when the needy become invisible again. Thank you for *always* caring. And Thank You to Mickie Betts who checks the bucket every week and gets it to Grace Lutheran Food Pantry for us.

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 to the church or put it in the offering plate. These cards help us to plan the budget and share the load to make the church run smoothly. Extra cards are available in the church office or from the bulletin table in the Sanctuary. Thank you to those who have already turned theirs in.

In Loving Memory

*Charles "Chuck" Eckenrod
October 18, 1936 – December 10, 2017*

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

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

Special Angels for January

LITURGISTS (Confirmands)

7 – Amy Carlton
14 – Cara Grindle
21 – Zoey Pearsall
28 – Angelina Pearsall

GREETERS (Heidi Harris)

7 – Heidi and Allen Harris
14 – Billy and Carrie Roeder
21 – Mickie Betts
28 – Mickie Betts

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up sheet)

7 – Mimi Carlton
14 –
21 – Potluck
28 – Lauren Tomsic

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

7 – Communion – No Children's Church

14 – Heidi Harris

21 – Betty Ashcraft

28 – Ken Andersen

USHERS (Curtis Carlin)

FLOWERS (Sign-up sheet)

7 –

14 –

21 –

28 –

PARAMENTS (Allen Harris)

COMMUNION (Diane Venski)

From the Pastor

These are the results of our brainstorming sessions since October –

Strengths

Loving

Giving

Compassionate

Gift of Discernment

Music

Love

Loyalty

All inclusive

Faith

Praise to bring people together

Inclusion

God

To learn about God

To remember loved ones!

A bright smile

The coffee is awesome!

Every Sunday – it's like coming home – my church family

Hope

Can-do Spirit

To help others be better people

Happiness around every corner

A community

To keep God and Jesus' Spirit alive

Path to Heaven

Needs

Younger members

Pianist

Organist

Youth choir

New doors – automatic

Thanksgiving

Thankful for a wonderful church family who is always there in times of need

The church gives thanks to us and so does the people and they help and give thanks to our family.

Kindness and generosity of everyone

Opening church to other groups, such as Family Advocacy and Scouts

Greetings siblings in Christ,

The New Year is upon us. We enter this new calendar continuing a transition as a community. This is an important time to look back on what we have accomplished, projects we have started, and the renewal we are still seeking. It is our 125th birthday and thanks to Ramona Yrazabel, Eddie Bush, Maury Townsend, Mildred McNeal, Jennifer Dillenbeck, and Betty Ashcraft it has been a joyful celebration. Their ministry has laid the path for us to rediscover our spiritual essence that led us to this point, and answer God's call for now and tomorrow.

You will notice above three lists. They name our current *Strengths*, *Needs*, and *Thanksgivings*. There is a lot of guidance here to who we are and how we are able to live out our calling. One thread I witness is love. The lists proclaim our commitment to one another and to anyone we encounter on our journey to fulfill Christ's prayer, "That they may all be one (John 17:21)." This is a profound and prophetic proclamation. Our divided and broken world is in desperate need for our spirit. The challenge we face is how do we live out this call now.

Our lists speak of music, generosity, and welcoming new folks of all ages. We want to sing God's praises as loud as possible. It's like the Who's in Dr. Seuss' *Horton Hears a Who*. The Who's must join together making a joyful noise to be heard and be saved. We want to proclaim our joyous love for one another and God with passion. We want to sing out as we give to those in need of healing, comfort, shelter, clothing, and food. We recognize, like the Who's, that the power of our mission blossoms tenfold with each new soul. These are the blueprints of our future. We are now called to continue our discernment experimenting with various ways to do these ministries.

The coming year will be a time for us to celebrate and strengthen all the traditions that have made us thrive. It will simultaneously be a period where we will need to live into unforeseen circumstances, and experiment with new ways of living out our mission. There will be change. This is never easy. Our anchor is Christ's call and prayer. Our cornerstone in the life of God found in our longstanding traditions of love, inclusion, support, service, and worship. Whatever we do, wherever we find ourselves these strengths will be necessary to root us and unite us in our unique call as God's First Congregational Church of Mountain Home.

Happy New Year everyone!

Blessings

Rev. Drew Terry

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Confirmation Class at 1 p.m. on: 14th, 21st, and 28th of January	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3 10 – Noon Coffee with Drew	4 12 p.m. – 3 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/ <u>Communion</u> Diaconate Board mtg.	8 3:30 GSA 7 BSA 7 p.m. Trustees	9 7 p.m. Cubs	10 10 – Noon <u>Coffee with Drew</u> 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 GSA	11 12 p.m. – 3 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 12 p.m. – 3 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 Potluck	22 3:30 GSA 7 BSA 7 p.m. Church Council	23 7 p.m. Cubs	24 10 – Noon <u>Coffee with Drew</u> 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 GSA	25 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. <u>Family Advocacy</u> 6 Bell practice 7 Choir practice	26	27
28 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. <u>Worship</u> Christian Ed Meeting	29 3:30 GSA 7 BSA	30 7 p.m. Cubs	31 10 – Noon Coffee with Drew 3:30 GSA	12 p.m. – 3 p.m. <u>Family Advocacy</u> 6 Bell practice 7 Choir practice		

February 2018 – subject to change

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Confirmation Class at 1 p.m. on: 4th, 18th, and 25th				1 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. <u>Family Advocacy</u> 6 Bell practice 7 Choir practice	2 Groundhog Day	3
4 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ <u>Communion</u> Diaconate Board mtg.	5 3:30 GSA 7 BSA	6 7 p.m. Cubs	7 10 – Noon Coffee with Drew 3:30 GSA	8 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. <u>Family Advocacy</u> 6 Bell practice 7 Choir practice	9 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship potluck and mtg.	10
11 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	12 3:30 GSA 7 BSA 7 p.m. Trustees	13 6 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	14 Ash Wednesday 10 – Noon <u>Coffee with Drew</u> 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study <u>3:30 GSA</u> 7 p.m. Ash Wed. Service	15 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. <u>Family Advocacy</u> 6 Bell practice 7 Choir practice	16	17
<i>First Sunday of Lent</i> 18 Black History Sunday 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	19 President's Day Office Closed	20 7 p.m. Cubs	21 10 – Noon <u>Coffee with Drew</u> <u>3:30 GSA</u> 6 p.m. Lenten potluck and meditation	22 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. <u>Family Advocacy</u> 6 Bell practice 7 Choir practice	23	24
<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> 25 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. <u>Worship</u> Christian Ed Meeting	26 3:30 GSA 7 BSA 7 p.m. Church Council	27 6 p.m. Cubs Blue and Gold Banquet	28 10 – Noon <u>Coffee with Drew</u> <u>3:30 GSA</u> 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Lenten potluck and meditation			

2018 – Subject to Change!

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Communion 7th
Office Closed Monday 15th
Annual meeting and potluck 21st

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NO Communion
Office Closed 4th

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Communion 4th
Scout Sunday 11th
Shrove Tuesday 13th
Ash Wednesday 14th
Black History Sunday 18th
Office Closed 19th
Lenten Potluck and meditation -
21st and 28th

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Communion 5th

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Lenten Potluck and meditation
7th, 14th, and 21st
One Great Hour of Sharing and
Maurie Townsend offering 25
Maundy Thursday 29th
Good Friday 30th

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Office Closed 3rd
Communion/Rally Day/Rally Day
Potluck 9th

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Easter/Communion 1st

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Communion/Neighbors in Need
Offering 7th
Potluck 21st
Halloween Party 27th ?

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Communion 6th
Mother's Day/Blanket Sunday 13th
Pentecost/Confirmation/Strengthen
the Church
offering/Last day of Sunday
School/ Potluck 20th
Office Closed 28th

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Communion 4th
Annual Budget and Election
Meeting 11th
Pie auction, Thanksgiving Dinner
Pledge blessing service 18th
Office closed 22nd
Hanging of the Greens TBA

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Communion 3rd
Father's Day 17th

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Christmas Bazaar 1st
Communion 2nd
Christmas program/potluck 16th ?
Christmas Eve service 24th