

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfcucc.org

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Christmas Bazaar

Christmas Bazaar Set up

Set up for the 2018 Christmas Bazaar will be **Friday, November 30th**, 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.

The Creche

Join us for a family friendly community event at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints located at 790 S. Haskett Street, Mountain Home. Hundreds of unique nativities on display, beautiful choirs and musical performances, kids room with coloring, simple crafts and more, and a live Nativity.

Thursday, December 6th and Friday, December 7th: 5 – 9 p.m.
Saturday, December 8th: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hosted by: The Elmore County Joint Ministerial Committee and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Community Concert

The Community Christmas Concert will be held here at First Congregational Church on **Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 7 p.m.**

Giving Tree Tags

Hello one and all, it is that time of year again. As a lot of you know I have been doing the Giving Tree since 2005, and our church has been blessed enough to be able to take part in it with me. This program is very near and dear to my 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 me either before or after church services every Sunday from Nov. 11th to Dec. 9th. All tags and items purchased **MUST** be back to the church no later than Dec. 16th as Curtis and I have to turn in the items on Dec. 17th, which is the deadline for the Giving Tree program this year.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Carlin

Giving Tree Coordinator

First Congregational Church

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 **Tuesday, December 18th**. Forms are 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.

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 14th** at 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck meal followed by a very short meeting. Linda Ramsey and Bobbi Bergh will be our hostesses. 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 Nancy Sobien

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will meet the second Wednesday in December, **December 12th**. We are studying *Battlefield of the Mind*, by Joyce Meyer. Each topic is a stand-alone, so you can make the studies as your schedule allows.

Christmas Program

"Broadcasting Christmas" takes us back to radio days when we listened to the mysteries in rapt silence. Join us in this mystery of the real meaning of Christmas portrayed by the **Congregational Characters**. Radio Announcers: Nancy Sobien and Lawrence Pearsall; Gumshoes Genesis and Revelation: Zoey Pearsall and Angelina Pearsall; Miss Placed: Samantha Pearsall; Baker: Todd Paille; Mrs. Worthington Amy Sowden; Children Avalynn Bixler, Keanah Newton, Sunnie Marx, Layla Brumley, Lucas Brumley, Nolan Freeman, and Hunter Dillenbeck. Thank you to all of these gifted personalities. Practices will be Sundays, December 2 and 9 during Sunday School – 10 a.m.

The program will be Sunday, December 16th, during worship.

Christmas Luncheon

On **Sunday, December 16th**, 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.

Office Christmas Schedule

The secretary will be out of the office from December 21 through January 2. Pastor Drew will be out the office as of December 25. Newsletter articles and Special Angels must be into the office by **Monday, December 17th** as the newsletter will go out one week early.

Christmas Schedule

There will be no Sunday School on December 23rd and December 30th. There will not be a Christian Education. Church Council meeting will be December 17th.

Christmas Eve Service

On **Monday 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.

Mark your Calendars!

Come to worship on **Sunday, December 30th** to hear and meet Rev. Gary Smith, Ret., from Red Rock Christian Church, Boise. If we find that we are all a good fit, it is possible that he will shepherd our church until a settled pastor is

hired. Please make plans to attend and meet him and give him a First Congregational welcome.

Proposed Change to Constitution and By-Laws

The following proposed change to the Constitution and By-Laws will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on **January 20th**.

Proposed change: from

“Article II

Object

The object of this Church shall be to provide for: the worship of God; the Christian training of children, youth and adults; and the extension of the Kingdom of God.”

to

“ARTICLE II
MISSION AND VISION

A. Mission of First Congregational Church, UCC, Mountain Home, ID is:

To bring the word of God to all people through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit

B. Vision of First Congregational Church, UCC, Mountain Home, ID:

Work together to worship God, share our faith in Christ, and enrich our community through service and Christian education.”

History Book pre-orders

The 125-Year History of First Congregational Church, UCC, Mountain Home, Idaho is complete! We are currently trying to assess the best way to print them and thus determine the appropriate cost per book.

To do that, we will need to take pre-orders. If you would like to purchase a copy of this history for your very own, please sign-up in the office. A phone call or email is sufficient, but, of course, you can always drop in, too.

Thank you

Communion Bag repair

The Communion Bag had a bit of an accident that left it a little less than it was. Thank you to Kay Eilerbrecht for repairing it and making it like new.

Pie Auction

The pie auction on November 18th brought in the wonderful amount of \$1300! Thank you to all of the bakers for donating such scrumptious pies.

A special thank you to Linda Miller for the beautiful quilted table runner and pie-shaped pot holders. Thank you to Bob Roberts for his humorous auctioneering and to our cashiers,

Linda Ramsey and Sherry Bush. We couldn't have a successful auction without you. 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

What a wonderful evening! 80 of us shared a delicious feast and Thanksgiving service. Thanks especially to Maurie and Grace Townsend, Sherry and Eddie Bush, and Betty Ashcraft and Al Foster for delivering our shut-in meals. Thank you Maurie, Sherry and Jennifer Andersen for setting up the shut-in recipient list!! Thank you Grace for providing the green beans and pie for the delivery meals! Another special thanks goes to the Social Committee for setting up the Fellowship Hall Saturday morning and for working several hours Sunday afternoon and evening, seamlessly seeing tasks that needed done and doing them! (Sherry Bush, Allen and Heidi Harris, Mary Ann Hamilton, Nadine Roberts). We enjoyed Kay Eilerbrecht as she worked alongside us Sunday - in preparation for her service on Social Committee next year. Lawrence and Rose Pearsall donated their evening to manning the kitchen and serving, what a loving gift of time! Eddie Bush and Curtis and Ann Carlin who assisted with a couple technical issues...thanks!

Turkey, potato, dressing and gravy cooks - Thanks to you all!

Mollie Marsh

Church note: Thank you Mollie Marsh and the Social Committee for all your hard work putting together this year's Thanksgiving Dinner.

Lee Wright and Sherry Bush

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.

End of year giving

If you want credit in 2018 for your December tithe, be sure to have it to the church before **December 31st**. If you mail it, be sure that it is in the mail to be **postmarked** before or on December 31st. Anything received after that will go on you 2019 giving statement.

Pledges for 2019

If you missed the Pledge Blessing Service on November 18th 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 **Monday, January 7, 2019**, earlier if possible, so they can be prepared for distribution at our Annual Meeting on January 20th.

Bulletin Sponsors

There are only a few Sundays left for sponsoring a 2019 bulletin. Sign-up sheets are on the sign-up 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. Each sponsorship costs \$10, payable when you can between now and the end of 2019 – 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.

Pilgrim Cove End of Year

Pilgrim Cove Camp is at the end of its year and is short of money, due to camps that backed out. If you'd like to help and get a tax deduction, please give what you can before December 31st, 2018. Mark your offering check Pilgrim Cove or mail to Pilgrim Cove, P.O. Box 867, McCall, ID 83638

Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross

On **December 24th** we will take our *Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross* offering. 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.

Birthdays in December

2 – Richard Bush	20 – John Estes
7 – Michael Marten	21 – Maurie Townsend
15 – Lee Wright	22 – Truman Parker
19 – Lucas Brumley	24 – Brent Garretson
19 – LeeAnna Lathrop	26 – Bud Weise

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 (Gail Corlett-Trueba)

2 – Zoey Pearsall
9 – Angelina Pearsall
16 – Amy Sowden
23 – Patrick Harris
30 – Tony Deal

GREETERS (Ken Hill)

2 – Polly and Bid Sanders
9 – Mickie Betts and Ken Hill
16 – Chris and Todd Paille
23 – Rose Pearsall and girls
24 – Barb and Roger Fogleman
30 – Betty Ashcraft and Al Foster

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (sign-up sheet)

2 – Aaren Brumley
9 – Lauren Tomsic
16 – Christmas Potluck
23 – Ann and Curtis Carlin
30 – Mary Ann Hamilton

FLOWERS (sign-up sheet)

Christmas Décor

ADVENT CANDLE (Curtis Carlin)

2 – The Brumley Family
9 – The Dillenbeck Family
16 – The Terry Family
23 – The Allgood Family
24 – The Deal Family

USHERS (Mildred McNeal)

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Ann Carlin)

From Our Pastor

Dear beloved siblings in Christ,

It is with grief I write my final *Proclamation* letter. It is never easy to say, “Goodbye.” Farewells are moments of loss. The sadness is because there were moments of joy. I write on the eve of Thanksgiving and the glory of the Christmas season. In that spirit I want to say, “Goodbye” with a list of thank you’s.

Thank you for all your love and support. Thank you for a bridal shower for Jade and Nolan’s first bike. Thank you for all the L.A. Dodgers gear and the revelation of my “skeletons in the closet”. Thank you for Mrs. Potato Head. Thank you for a sermon trophy. Thank you for the courage to share. Thank you for trying new things in our ministry together. Thank you for trying new ways to do Advent. Thank you for

joining in creative new sermon approaches like a string circling the Sanctuary. Thank you for lay leaders willing to share God’s word in creative ways and reveal the priesthood of all believers. Thank you for sharing your devotionals. Thank you for new ways to celebrate stewardship. Thank you for supporting and empowering our youth. Thank you for sending them to Hawai’i to discover their gifts as Christian leaders. Thank you for being their faith home. Thank you for renewing our youth led Easter Sunrise Service. Thank you for empowering youth to lead worship and serve. Thank you for your commitment to the community. Thank you for staying faithful to the food bank and the local ministerial association. Thank you for Thanksgiving meals, especially to our shut-ins. Thank you for hosting the community Thanksgiving service and Community Choir events. Thank you for Christmas pageants and Vacation Bible School. Thank you for an interdenominational outdoor service. Thank you for sharing the building. Thank you for a year of rediscovering and reclaiming our vibrant 125-year history. Thank you for renewing the mission and vision of Christ’s unique call on our church. Thank you for reinvigorating our traditions and boldly seeking new ways of being church.

Thank you for sharing your homes for meals and visits. Thank you for inviting me to join you in both your joys and celebrations. Thank you for sharing your confusion, struggles, and pain. Thank you for the shared journey faithfully seeking Divine healing in companionship and community. Thank you for joining me in visiting the lonely, the sick, and the needy. Thank you for sharing ministry. Thank you for Wednesday morning coffee. Thank you for shakes, spirituality, and finding the Divine revelation in our daily lives. Certain I forgot something, thank you for everything. Thank you for sharing your life and love.

My favorite passages of scripture, my personal mission and vision statements are, “Love God with all your heart and your soul and your mind and your strength...Love thy neighbor as thy self (Mark 12:30-31).” The other is, “That they may all be one (John 17:21)”. My time here has renewed these calls and led me to discover their transformative power. You show love in hopes of uniting and building relationships. I pray you will stay steadfast in this call.

Where ever you go from here you are in my heart. Wherever I go from here I will be forever changed and grateful for your love. I will always pray the words of the hymn, “Bind us Together.” I pray you will hold my family and me near your hearts.

Happy trails to you until we meet again

Peace be with you and blessings
Rev. Drew Terry

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8 a.m. – noon Christmas Bazaar
1st Sunday of Advent 2 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion	3 3:30 p.m. GSA 7 p.m. BSA 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting	4 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	5 10 – noon Coffee with Pastor Drew 3:30 p.m. GSA	6 12:30 – 2:30 <u>Family Advocate</u> 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Choir practice	7	8
2nd Sunday of Advent 9 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 7 p.m. Community Christmas Concert	10 3:30 GSA 6:30 p.m. Trustees' mtg. 7 p.m. BSA	11 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	12 10 – noon Coffee with Pastor Drew 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. GSA	13 12:30 – 2:30 <u>Family Advocate</u> 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Choir practice	14 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship Potluck and meeting 4 p.m. Boy Scout	15 10 a.m. Lock – in
3rd Sunday of Advent 16 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Christmas Program Christmas Potluck	17 3:30 p.m. GSA 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. BSA – Court of Honor	18 7 p.m. Cub Scout Pack Meeting	19 10 – noon Coffee with Pastor Drew 3:30 p.m. GSA	20 12:30 – 2:30 <u>Family Advocate</u> 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Choir practice	21	22
4th Sunday of Advent 23 NO Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	24 8 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service	25 Christmas Office closed	26	27	28	29
30 NO Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Welcome Rev. Gary Smith	31 New Year's Eve Office closed					

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 3:30 GSA	3 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel	4	5
Epiphany 6 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	7 3:30 p.m. GSA 7 p.m. BSA 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting	8 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	9 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. GSA	10 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel	11 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship Potluck and meeting	12
13 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	14 3:30 GSA 6:30 p.m. Trustees' mtg. 7 p.m. BSA	15 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	16 3:30 p.m. GSA	17 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel	18	19
20 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Annual Meeting Potluck	21 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed	22 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	23 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. GSA	24 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel	25	26
27 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	28 3:30 GSA 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. BSA	29 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	30 3:30 p.m. GSA	31 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel		