

# Mountain Proclamations

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

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

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[churchinfo@mhfcucc.org](mailto:churchinfo@mhfcucc.org)

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## Mark your Calendars!

Come to worship on **Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>** 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.

## Search Committee Update

Your search committee has been working hard, spending many hours to be sure we have a strong church profile to submit. We are in the final stages of completing our profile. We hope to have it ready for Conference review and acceptance by the third week in December. Once the profile has been validated by the Central Pacific Conference (CPC), our goal is to have the profile submitted for posting on the UCC website the first week in January.

Thank you for your support and prayers during this process.

If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the committee members

Ken Andersen  
Gail Banner  
Molly Marsh  
Mildred McNeal  
Phil Miller  
Chris Paille  
Linda Ramsey  
Ramona Yrazabal

## Office Hours for New Year's

The Church office will be closed on **Monday, December 31, 2018 and Tuesday, January 1, 2019**. We will re-open at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

## 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 20<sup>th</sup>**.

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.”**

## 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 2018.

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 2019 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 11<sup>th</sup>** 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 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>**. 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.

All women of the church are invited to attend.

### *GriefShare*

**GriefShare**, a grief support group, begins **Tuesday, Jan 15, 2019, 6:30 - 8pm, at the Nazarene Church - 950 N. 7th E.**

GriefShare is nondenominational and provides help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. All are welcome. The group meets weekly for 13 weeks and the only cost is \$20 for the workbook. Reverend Debbie Hodgerson and Mollie Marsh will co-facilitate the sessions. Contact Mollie or the Nazarene church for more information (208.587.3093).

### *Prayer Breakfast*

**Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast** presented by the Mountain Home Community Black History Committee:

Date: **Saturday ~ January 19, 2019**

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

Guest Speaker: Evangelist Karen Watts-Jones, Major USA, Retired

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

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

RSVP by: January 16, 2019. Tickets may be purchased from Joe McNeal, Mildred McNeal, CD Houston, any committee member or call 587-3227 #UNITY

### *Annual Meeting and Reports*

Our Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>** immediately following our worship service. This is an important meeting as we will vote on our final budget for 2019. 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 time. Please get them to the office by **Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**. You can email them as a Word document to [churchinfo@mhfccucc.org](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup>**) immediately following our Annual Meeting. If possible, bring a dish to share and your own place setting. No matter what, all are welcome to the table.

### *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.

### *UCC Winter Family Camp Feb. 1 – 3, 2019*

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. 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>. 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: by Sunday, **January 27<sup>th</sup>** to Kari and Lori, Camp Managers  
By phone at (208)634 – 5555  
Or by email to: [manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org](mailto:manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org)

### *Thank You*

#### *Hanging of the Greens*

I would like to thank Sherry and Eddie Bush and everyone from the Diaconate Board who came out to help with the Hanging of the Greens on November 24<sup>th</sup>. Because of all who came we had the greens up in no time. Again, THANK YOU to everyone who showed up to help.

*Sincerely,*  
*Ann Carlin*  
*Chairman, Diaconate Board*

## Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar

The Annual Christmas Bazaar was a smashing success! Many thanks to so many willing helpers...from setting up to tearing down...from baking pies and cinnamon rolls to eating pie and cinnamon rolls...from donating items to purchasing items...from cashiering to bagging to carrying purchases to cars...you have helped us raise **\$2,457**...with a few payments still rolling in! What a fantastic sale we had! Our additional thanks to all the men that pitched in to help; Eddie Bush, Lee Wright, and Terry Lindquist.

Thanks to Linda Ramsey and Kristy Blanksma for setting up Horner's Corner. Thanks to Sherry Bush and crew for handling the kitchen and food items. Thanks to Bobbi Bergh, Linda Ramsey and Sherry Bush for the delicious (but non-fattening) cinnamon rolls. Thanks to Betty Ashcraft, Ramona Yrazabal and Heidi Harris for perfectly operating the cash boxes. Thanks to Tony Deal, Kelli Collett, Gail Banner, Linda Ramsey, Jennifer Andersen and Lee Wright for donations to our silent auction. And many thanks to all of the Women's Fellowship ladies that worked for months on this project. Our church is a wonderful place because of all of you! GOD IS GOOD!

*Nancy Sobien, Co-President  
Women's Fellowship*

### Giving Tree 2018

I started working with the Giving Tree Program through the Chamber of Commerce here in Mountain Home in 2005, and in those 14 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 12 more children to have a great Christmas. So, in total we were able to help 42 children to have an awesome 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 Potluck

What a wonderful experience!

Thank you Sherry, Mary Ann, Allen, Heidi, Nadine, Rose and so many more who helped do so many important jobs – including clean-up and dishes! You all are such a joy to work with!

Thanks to all the cooks! The food was beautiful and delicious, no surprise! Sherry, perfect going-away cakes, thanks!

Maury & Kelli, thanks for the kind parting words for Drew, Jade & Nolan and the gorgeous quilt that will grace their Tucson home!

### Christmas Program

The Congregational Characters performed "Broadcasting Christmas" with enthusiastic charm as they took the audience back to the days of radio mysteries. Music and sound effects really gave the story zest. Once again the mystery of what Christmas is all about has been solved and we can celebrate for the right reason. It is a true blessing that all ages of our congregation shared their time and talent for our annual Christmas program.

Many thanks to Marlene Osborne who keeps us in tune. The children Avalynn Bixler, Keanah Newton, Sunnie Marx, Nolan Freeman, Layla Brumley, Lucas Brumley, Hayden Brumley, Hunter Dillenbeck, and Donatello Venski sang beautifully and never missed a cue. The story characters Angelina Pearsall and Zoey Pearsall as the Gumshoes, Samantha Pearsall as Miss Placed, Todd Paille as the Baker, Amy Sowden as Mrs. Worthington, Gabby Howry as the Bible story teller, and, of course, Ken Andersen as our beloved Santa kept the audience on the edge of their seats as they uncovered the mystery of the real meaning of Christmas. No radio program is complete without the perfectly timed sound effects by Mollie Marsh and Nancy Sobien. Able Assistants were Al Foster, Aaren Brumley, Rose Pearsall, Frank Marsh, and Jade Terry kept things running smoothly.

As always, I am eternally grateful for the love and support of the congregation when we do a program.

Betty Ashcraft

Editor's Note: A very special thank you to Betty Ashcraft, who does such an amazing job mining the gold of talent that is in our congregation. Thank you so much, Betty.

### Search Committee

The congregation of Mountain Home First Congregational Church, UCC, wishes to thank

Linda Ramsey, Gail Banner, Molly Marsh, Ken Andersen, Mildred McNeal, Ramona Yrazabal, Phil Miller, and Chris Paille for the hours and hours of dedication they have put in to update our church profile and do everything possible to find our church a new settled pastor as well as find an interim pastor to shepherd us until a new settled pastor is found. Thank you for your love, care and dedication. For many of you, this is round-two of a very exhausting endeavor.

A special Thank You to Linda Ramsey for heading this committee once again. Your attention to detail and dedication to this church family is heartwarming.

### 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.

### 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.**

### Change of Address

Harold and Sally Henderson  


### Anniversaries for January

1 Nadine and Bob Roberts  
1 Sylvia and Fred Sisneros  
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    21 Angelina Pearsall  
14 Charles Olson        23 Lee Kaufman

## Special Angels for January

### LITURGISTS (Heidi Harris)

6 – Wade Baumgardner  
13 – Betty Ashcraft  
20 – Heidi Harris  
27 – Mollie Marsh

### GREETERS (Tony Deal)

6 – Tony Deal and Avi Bixler  
13 – The Pearsall Family  
20 – Betty Ashcraft and Al Foster  
27 – Frank and Mollie Marsh

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up sheet)

6 – Mimi Carlton  
13 – Ramona Yrazabal  
20 – Potluck  
27 – Linda Thomsen

### USHERS (Maurie Townsend)

### FLOWERS (Sign-up sheet)

6 –  
13 – Ramona Yrazabal  
20 –  
27 –

### PARAMENTS (Allen Harris)

### COMMUNION (Diane Venski)

## Thoughts for 2019

As we approach the New Year, individually and as a church family, may we reflect on, and perhaps recite often, the following prayer by Thomas Merton, taken from his *Thoughts in Solitude* as found on page 130 of Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*.

*“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”*

# January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 3:30 GSA	3 6p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel	4	5
<b>Epiphany 6</b> 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 7:30 a.m. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast @ Elks Lodge
20 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Annual Meeting <b>Potluck</b>	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 12:15 Christian Ed meeting	28 3:30 GSA 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. BSA	29 7 p.m. Cub Scouts – Pack meeting	30 3:30 p.m. GSA	31 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel		

# February 2019 (subject to Change)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Groundhog Day
3 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	4 3:30 p.m. GSA 7 p.m. BSA 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting	5 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	6 3:30 GSA	7 Valentine's Day 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel	8 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship Potluck and meeting	9
<b>Scout Sunday 10</b> 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	11 3:30 GSA 6:30 p.m. Trustees' mtg. 7 p.m. BSA	12 Lincoln's Birthday 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	13 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. GSA	14 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel	15	16
<b>Black History Sunday 17</b> 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship <b>Potluck</b>	18 President's Day  Office Closed	19 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	20 3:30 GSA	21 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel	22 Washington's Birthday	23
24 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 12:15 Christian Ed meeting	25 3:30 GSA 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. BSA	26 7 p.m. Cub Scouts – Pack meeting	27 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. GSA	28 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel		