

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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Last 10 a.m. Worship

Sunday, September 1st will be our last 10 a.m. Worship service for the season. We will return to our 11 a.m. Worship time with Sunday School at 10 a.m. on Sunday, September 9th.

Office will be closed

Monday, September 2nd, Labor Day, the church office will be closed.

Grief Share

Another session of GriefShare is beginning on **Tuesday, September 3rd from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. at the Nazarene Church**, 950 N. 7th East. Cost is \$20 for the workbook. Need more information? Contact Mollie Marsh.

Choir Practices Begin Again

Bell Choir begins practice for the 2019/2020 worship season on **Thursday, September 5th at 6 p.m.** Chancel Choir practice will begin on **Thursday, September 6th at 7:00 pm** and the choir will make their fall debut on Rally Day.

If you've been considering joining either or both choirs, now is a great time to do it. No auditions required and everyone is welcome to join in and sing and ring.

Rally Day and the Return to regular worship schedule

Sunday, September 8th marks the beginning of our Fall through Spring schedule and a new Sunday school year with Sunday school at 10 a.m. and Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

Communion will be served at the September 8th worship service. This is the only month when Communion is not served on the first Sunday of the month.

Sunday School 2019!

Sunday school begins again on **September 8th**. All children – and adults! – are encouraged to bring a friend to help our Sunday school grow. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Annual Rally Day Barbecue

After the 11 a.m. Worship service we will have our traditional **barbecue potluck**. Burgers and hotdogs will be provided and the church family is asked to bring goodies to share: salads, beans, veggie dishes, whatever you want to bring to make a great family barbecue. All are welcome.

For the Women of the Church

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship begins again with the meeting being held on **Friday, September 13th**, in the church Fellowship Hall beginning at noon with a potluck luncheon. Mildred McNeal and Dorraine Aggen will be the hostesses. Worship leader to be announced.

Women's Bible Study

After much consideration, the following books are being considered for Women's Bible Study when we start back up in September.

1. Falling Upwards by Richard Rohr
2. It's Not Supposed to Be This Way by Lysa Terkeust
3. The God I Never Knew by Robert Morris
4. You Are Beloved by Bobby Schuller
5. Women Rowing North by Mary Pipher
6. Various guides for studying books of the Bible have also been suggested by author Keri Folmar:
Grace, book of Ephesians; Joy, book of Philippians; Son of God (vols. 1 & 2), book of Mark; Zeal, book of Titus; and Faith, book of James

More information will be available at our first meeting on **Wednesday, September 11th, at 11 a.m.** Those who are interested are encouraged to go online and read the reviews. We will have more information at our first meeting for anyone who does not have a computer.

We meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 11 am. Anyone not on our email list can give their contact information to the office and we will add you to the list.

Craft Days Continue

Craft Days will continue through September with the only meeting being on **Friday, September 20th at 1 p.m.** October's meetings are tentatively scheduled for **October 4th and 18th**. Watch the bulletin and October newsletter for confirmation.

Yes, we are still working on Quiet Books, but the church will also be open for crafters of every kind to come and work on their crafts or help others with theirs. Bring your supplies and create with good friends and fellow crafters.

Treasures Report

As of August 15th we have received General Fund donations of \$78,666 and spent \$49,117. We have received Designated Donations (Special Offerings, Building, Special Projects, etc.) of \$5,912 and spent \$5,628. We spent an additional \$5,912 on Hand Bells from previously designated donations to the Hand Bell Fund.

Thank you all for generously supporting the church, but even though we are currently in good shape financially, now is not a time to coast. One reason our financial situation appears as good as it does is because several of our members have already donated their entire annual donation.

Another reason is because we are paying Reverend Gary as a part time interim. A full time minister would have increased our expenses by approximately \$20,000 to date. We will likely have to spend much of that to bring in a new minister and then pay them at that rate or more in the future.

Another expenditure we are facing this year is \$4,500 for concrete work on the center entrance ramp to the parking lot. The current ramp is breaking up badly and could be impassible by next spring if not repaired this fall.

Thanks again for your generosity.
Eddie Bush
Treasurer

Search Committee Update

The committee has continued to work on your behalf, but the going has been slow. We have reviewed seven profiles but were unable to find the "fit" we are seeking.

Recently, we received two profiles that show some promise and our next step will be to request video interviews. During these interviews we will be able to ask more questions of these candidates and make further

discernment about how well they match up to our needs.

As you are aware, the process is highly confidential so we are only able to share the most generic information with you at this time.

The good news is that Rev. Gary Smith is willing to remain with us for the near term allowing us some additional time to find the "right" person.

Thank you for your patience.
The Search Committee

Bulletin Sponsors for 2020

It is time to start signing up to sponsor a worship bulletin for 2020. The sign-up sheet will be on the back table in the sanctuary starting the third Sunday of September, **September 15th**. Choose the worship service you would like to sponsor and write your name next to that date; please note if you wish to remain anonymous. You may make your donation of \$10 any time before the end of 2020. Please mark your check for the bulletin date that you are sponsoring. If you have any questions about how this works, contact the church office at 587-4969.

It's nomination time

Have you considered being on one of the boards or committees that help keep our church running smoothly? Did you put on your Time and Talent card for 2019 that you would like to serve on a board or committee? Now's your chance! If you are interested in serving on one of the boards or committees, please contact the church office at 587-4969 or a member of the Nominating Committee. They are: Grace Townsend, Wade Baumgardner, Nadine Roberts, and Judy Case.

2019 CPC Annual Gathering Though Many Parts, We're One Body

The 2019 Central Pacific Conference will be held from **September 27-29 at Pacific University, Forest Grove OR**. Registration for Annual Gathering is NOW OPEN

ADULT - Full Registration = \$125, which includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and Saturday evening banquet.

ADULT - Saturday Only = \$100, includes Saturday lunch and Saturday evening banquet.
YOUTH, 6th - 12th grade = \$75. Includes housing and meals.

CHILDREN - childcare available for kids through grade 5 = **FREE**

For more information, contact the church office at (208)587-4969, email us at churchinfo@mhfccucc.org or go to the Central Pacific Conference's website at www.cpcucc.org and click on "news and events".

Fellowship and Flowers in October

We need volunteers to host Fellowship Hour and provide Altar Flowers for the month of October. If you have any questions about what this involves, please ask one of the women of the Women's Fellowship or contact the office. Sign-up sheets are on the table to the left as you leave the Sanctuary.

Thank you

AED Training

Thank you to Linda Ramsey, Sandy Ramsey, Judy Case, Sherry Bush, Eddie Bush, Lee Wright, Billy Roeder, Mike Keas, Roger Fogleman, and Frank Marsh for taking time out of their summer to learn to correct operation of our AED machine. This training can save a life and we appreciate their dedication to all of our safety.

From Elmore County Domestic Violence Council

"First Congregational Church Members,

I would like to thank everyone for your generous donations of new towels and washcloths for the residents of the Evans Harmony House. Elmore County Domestic Violence Council (ECDVC) and the Evans Harmony House greatly appreciate contributions like yours to help those in our community who suffer from domestic violence, sexual assault and stalkingBecause of people like you who understand the need to make a difference, families have a better chance of having healthy, violence free lives...

Sincerely,
Kimberly Middleton
Executive Director
Elmore County Domestic Violence Council/Evans Harmony House"

Crayons, pencils, and markers – Oh, my!

Thank you to Kitty Singleton for the donation of an abundant supply of crayons, markers, pens, colored pencils and regular pencils. These will be very useful in the office, the Sunday School rooms and for the children to use on their children's bulletins during worship. Thank you, Kitty, for sharing with the church family.

Hand crafted greeting cards

The Women's Fellowship would like to thank Rita Olson and Kay Eilebrecht for making beautiful greeting cards for the church family to sign to send to the Sisneroses and the Hendersons.

Summer Music

Thank you to all who have contributed to our summer music – Dorraine Aggen on August 4th and Joseph Armstrong and Dorraine Aggen on August 11th. The music was delightful!

Sanctuary prep and return

In mid-August we had the blue carpet in the Sanctuary deep cleaned. Before that could be done anything not nailed down had to be moved. Thank you to Linda Ramsey, Nancy Sobien, Eddie Bush, and Lee Wright for all the hard work of removing and returning all the furnishings from the Sanctuary carpeted area. Thank you, Sasha, for supervising your charges.

Flower Gardens and Lawn Care

There are a number of people who have put time into the flower beds, lawns, fields and hedges around the church. Those who have been caught in the act are Eddie Bush, Lindy Ramsey, Gail Banner, Lee Wright, Grace Townsend, Gene Mussler, and the person/people who drive the dark red vehicle and did such an awesome job on the small flower bed by the front door. We're sure there are others who have come over and worked and weren't seen. Please know that your efforts are very much appreciated.

Upcoming Events

Neighbors in Need

On **Sunday, October 6th**, we will take up our 2019 *Neighbors in Need* offering. Go to www.ucc.org/nin for all the details on what this offering does for our Neighbors in Need.

Halloween Party

The annual Halloween Party is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, October 26th**, from 1 to 4 p.m. Make plans now to join in the fun, games, and food. Watch the bulletin and the October *Proclamation* for more information and ways you can help.

Northwest Regional Women's Retreat XII November 1, 2, and 3, 2019

The Central Pacific Conference and Pacific Northwest Conference invite all women to come

together at our regional retreat this fall. With the theme "Wade in the Water" to share renewal, spiritual growth and fellowship, we will meet at our new venue The Oregon Garden Resort. Our website (www.nrwr.us) is ready with information about workshops and registration.

Our Condolences

To Kay Eilebrecht on the loss of her Uncle Donald

In Loving Memory

*Clarence "Joe" Joseph
February 28, 1925 – August 8, 2019*

*Laura "Frances" Duggan Parrish
October 18, 1927 – August 20, 2019*

September Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 – Heidi Harris | 16 – Sally Henderson |
| 2 – Elin Colthorp | 16 – Johnny A. Willis |
| 3 – Anne Parker | 19 – Beth DeVore |
| 8 – Nancy Martin | 19 – Jordan Pentland |
| 12 – Jon Pentland | 27 – Jennifer Andersen |
| 14 – Alvaree Venski | 27 – Benjamin Parker |
| 15 – Carrie Roeder | 28 – Hunter Dillenbeck |

September Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 12 | Susan and Gene Mussler |
| 14 | Rose and Lawrence Pearsall |
| 16 | Cassie and Jonathan Pentland |

Special Angels for September

LITURGISTS (Gail Corlett-Trueba)

- 1 – Grace Townsend
- 8 – Truman Parker
- 15 – Betty Ashcraft
- 22 – Heidi Harris
- 29 – Tony Deal

GREETERS (Heidi Harris)

- 1 – Gail Trueba
- 8 – Diane Venski
- 15 – Allen and Heidi Harris
- 22 – Betty Ashcraft and Al Foster
- 29 – Lee Wright

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up Sheet)

- 1 – The Bush Family
- 8 – Rally Day Barbecue Potluck
- 15 –
- 22 – The Bush Family
- 29 – The Marsh Family

USHERS (Ann Carlin)

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

- 1 – Kitty Singleton
- 8 – Nancy Sobien
- 15 – Linda Ramsey
- 22 –
- 29 – Mollie Marsh

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Curtis Carlin)

NURSERY (Debi Deal)

From the Interim Pastor

Here I Raise my Ebenezer

Last Sunday (August 18th) we sang the hymn, "Come, Thou Found of Every Blessing". The second stanza has these words, "Here I raise my Ebenezer." It was asked, "what is an Ebenezer?" It was speculated that it was a stack of rocks erected as a memorial. Since Sunday, my mind would not let go of this word, so I did some research. Here is what I found. Ebenezer is a reference to 1 Samuel 7:12 which was footnoted in the hymn at the bottom of the page. 1 Samuel 7:12 reads, "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus the Lord has helped us."

The context of this verse is a battle between the Israelites and the Philistines. The Philistines were defeated and Samuel built this stone monument in honor of the Lord's help. In Hebrew the word Ebenezer means "stone of help." Later in the scripture Samuel refers to an altar built. I discovered a variation of this verse in another hymnal that goes, "Here I raise to thee an altar hither by thy help I've come." I like this better because it clarifies what the purpose of the Ebenezer was, a rock formation honoring God for what God had helped the Israelites accomplish.

I began thinking about all the help God had given me, God's presence, Jesus, answered prayer, scripture, love, forgiveness, a community of faith, Christian friends, etc. The second stanza continues, "Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I've come, and I hope by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home." So what can be our Ebenezer? It can be a prayer of thanks and praise, attending a worship service, giving a thank offering, doing an act of kindness and service to someone for what the Lord has done for you.

So here I raise my Ebenezer for you are a blessing and help to me. God bless you this Fall!

Rev. Gary Smith

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 LAST 10 a.m. Worship Service	2 Labor Day Office Closed	3 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	4 7 p.m. Venture Crew	5 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6 p.m. Bell 7 p.m. Choir	6	7 Air Force Appreciation Day
Rally Day 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion Rally Day Barbecue and Potluck	9 6:30 Trustees' meeting 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting 7 p.m. BSA	10 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	11 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Venture Crew	12 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6 p.m. Bell 7 p.m. Choir	13 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship Potluck and meeting	14
15 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	16 7 p.m. BSA	17 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	18 7 p.m. Venture Crew	19 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate NO Bell 7 p.m. Choir	20 1 p.m. Craft Day	21
22 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 12:20 Christian Ed meeting	23 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. BSA	24 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	25 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Venture Crew	26 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate NO Bell 7 p.m. Choir	27	28
29 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	30 7 p.m. BSA					

October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	2 7 p.m. Venture Crew	3 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6 p.m. Bell 7 p.m. Choir	4 1 p.m. Craft Day	5
NIN offering 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	7 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting 7 p.m. BSA	8 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	9 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 4 – 10 p.m. Rice Brothers Concert	10 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6 p.m. Bell 7 p.m. Choir	11 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship Potluck and meeting	12
13 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	14 Columbus Day Office Closed 6:30 Trustees' meeting	15 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	16 7 p.m. Venture Crew	17 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6 p.m. Bell 7 p.m. Choir	18 1 p.m. Craft Day	19
20 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Potluck	21 7 p.m. BSA	22 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	23 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Venture Crew	24 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6 p.m. Bell 7 p.m. Choir	25	26 1 – 4 p.m. Halloween Party
27 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 12:20 Christian Ed meeting	28 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. BSA	29 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	30 7 p.m. Venture Crew	31 Halloween 12:30 – 2:30 Family Advocate 6 p.m. Bell ? 7 p.m. Choir?		