

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org

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churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

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Christmas Bazaar Silent Auction

The Christmas Bazaar **Silent Auction** will be held **until December 8th** during Fellowship Hour. The items can be viewed after worship and pictures of some of the items are on the website. We have a quilt by Kelli Collett; 1/3 cord of wood from Lee Wright; a gentleman's bag with some wonderful items such as binoculars, Bailey's Irish Cream, gloves, and other things; a beautiful table runner from Linda Miller; 3 wise men from Merna Oliver; and a Lenox figurine of *Footprints in the Sand*, from Barbara Fogleman. As always, all proceeds go to support our church, buy nursery supplies, and support Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM).

Christmas Bazaar

Christmas Bazaar Set up

Set up for the 2019 Christmas Bazaar will be **Friday, December 6th**, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. This is the time to bring in your handcrafted items, gently used, gift-able 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 7, 2019**, from 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

There will be homemade goodies of all kinds, including cinnamon rolls 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.

Mountain Home Community Choir

The Mountain Home Community Choir presents Michael McLean's *The Forgotten Carols*. We have many members in this choir. Their schedule is as follows:

Friday, December 6th, 7:30 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 790 South Haskett Street

Friday, December 13th, 6:30 p.m. at the Mountain Home Junior High School, 1600 East 6th South

Saturday, December 14th, 7 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 515 East 15th North. Our Bell Choir will be performing at this one.

Giving Tree Tags

Giving Tree tags are in. See Ann Carlin either before or after worship from now until December 8th to get your tags. At last count, she had only 5 tags left – better hurry!

All unwrapped gifts must be to the church or to Ann on or before **Tuesday, December 10th, 1 p.m.**

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 17th**. Forms are available on the back bulletin table, or you may call or email your dedication in. 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 13th** at 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck meal followed by a very short meeting. Linda Ramsey and Ramona Yrazabal 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 11th**. We are studying *Falling Upward*, by Richard Rohr. Chapter questions are available from the bulletin board by the office or contact the office churchinfo@mhfccucc.org to receive it by email.

Christmas Program

The Christmas program this year will be "Merry Christmas, Baby Jesus". Practices will be Sundays, December 1st and 8th during Sunday School – 10 a.m. **The program will be Sunday, December 15th, during worship.**

Christmas Luncheon

Also on **Sunday, December 15th**, we will have our Christmas potluck luncheon immediately following the worship service. The Church will provide the Christmas ham and turkey and you can bring the side dishes and desserts as well as your own place setting, if possible.

Come and enjoy good food and good fellowship.

Office Christmas Schedule

The office will be closed on Christmas Day, **Wednesday, December 25th and Thursday, December 26th** as well as New Year's Day, **January 1st and Thursday January 2nd**.

Christmas Sunday School Schedule

There will be no Sunday School on December 22nd and December 29th.

Christmas Eve Service

NOTE CHANGE: On **Tuesday evening, December 24th, at 7:00 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.

Thank you

Pie Auction

The pie auction on November 24th brought in the wonderful amount of \$1,666! 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 and to Kelli Collett for the Casserole Carrier. Also many thanks to Truman Parker, Rita Olson, Sherry Bush and Linda Ramsey for their help during the auction. Thank you to Bob Roberts for being our entertaining auctioneer.

And, of course, to all the generous bidders who bid on the pies and made donations.

Proceeds will be used to support Church projects and Our Churches Wider Mission. (OCWM)

Nadine Roberts
Women's Fellowship

Editor's Note: Thank you, Nadine, for coordinating this fun event every year. It is the highlight of the year for many people. Your tireless efforts are much appreciated.

Thanksgiving Dinner

What a wonderful evening! 75 of us shared a delicious feast and Thanksgiving service.

THANK YOU to so many volunteers!!!

Meals for shut-ins:

- Maurie & Grace Townsend, Sherry & Eddie Bush, and Betty Ashcraft & Al Foster for preparing and delivering our shut-in meals.
- Maurie, Sherry and Jennifer Andersen for setting up the shut-in recipient list.
- Grace for providing the green beans and Sherry the pie for these meals

Social Committee: Mary Ann Hamilton, Nadine Roberts, Kay Eilebrecht, Patti & Gary Getner, Allen & Heidi Harris

- for setting up the Fellowship Hall and for working several hours seamlessly seeing tasks that needed done and doing them!

Turkey, potato, dressing and gravy cooks: Kelli Collett, Barb Fogelman, Patti & Gary Getner, Betty Ashcraft & Al Foster, Curtis & Ann Carlin, Sherry Bush, Linda Ramsey

Turkey Purchases:

- Mickie Betts
- The Church

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.

From Sylvia and Fred Sisneros

(in part) “Thanks Sunday School class for the lovely card. Hope and pray that everyone is doing okay.

We are living one day at a time. Fred is not in pain, sleeps most of the time. He only remembers the olden days, goes back to the 40’s. Ah! But I’m so glad I still have him with me.

*Love in Christ,
Sylvia and Fred Sisneros”*

Paper! Glorious paper!

There have been 2 wonderful donations of printer/copy paper this month. A total of a case and one third has been anonymously donated this month. These are wonderful donations that help the office budget go so much further.

End of year giving

If you want credit in **2019** 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 2020 giving statement.

Pledges for 2020

If you missed the Pledge Blessing Service on November 24th 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.

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.

All Boards and Committees

Year-end Annual Reports for 2019 are due in the office by **Monday, January 8, 2020**, earlier if possible, so they can be prepared for distribution at our **Annual Meeting**.

2020 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for 2020 will be on **Sunday, January 26th**, immediately after

worship. This is the time when we review all the happenings of 2019 and finalize the budget for 2020.

Please make plans to attend so that we have a quorum and do not have to reschedule. Our meetings are notoriously short, so this should be relatively painless. Thank you!!!

Pilgrim Cove Camp 2020 Schedule

Below you will find Save the Dates that cover events for 2020 here at Pilgrim Cove Camp! There are a variety of events ranging from Kids Camp to Grandparents Camp as well as family events. **As we move into the holiday season, keep in mind what a gift a camp experience can be.** As we have repeatedly heard from former campers, camp experiences far outweigh any monetary value. Just a thought.

For more information, be sure to contact us here at camp.

In His service!

Lori Roberts
PCC Manager
Pilgrim Cove Camp
Ph: 208.634.5555
www.pilgrimcovecamp.org
manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org

2020 Camp Schedule

Winter Snowdown! – Held **January 31 - February 2**, Pilgrim Cove Camp becomes your base camp for the last weekend of McCall Winter Carnival. Enjoy the annual ice carving competition as well as ski at world class Brundage Mountain. Or stay in camp and enjoy the view and our very own sledding hill. For \$95/camper you receive 2 nights lodging and up to 5 meals. If winter is your thing, you don’t want to miss this!

Grandparents Camp – If you or someone you know has grandchildren and likes the idea of camping without the tents and hard ground, this event may just be what you are looking for!
June 22 – June 25 Pilgrim Cove Camp will be hosting grandparents and their grandchildren in grades K – 12. There will be organized activities as well as free time to “hangout” at the lake. For \$150/camper you receive 3 nights lodging and up to 8 meals.

Summer Blowout! – Are you and your family looking to get away for summer break? Do you want to be close to biking and hiking trails as well as have access to a lake with kayaks and paddleboards available for use? Look NO further, Pilgrim Cove Camp is the place for you
July 7 – July 10! For \$165/guest, you receive 3 nights lodging and up to 9 meals.

Kids Camp – This is an annual event here at Pilgrim Cove Camp. It is open to kids who are entering 3rd grade in the fall of 2020 to those graduating in spring of 2020. A weeklong event, it begins Sunday afternoon **July 12th** and goes to Saturday morning **July 18th**. The cost is \$350/camper.

Women's Camp – Ladies, sometimes it is great to just come together with old friends and new alike. Mark your calendar for **August 4 – August 6** as the time to be reinvigorated. There is time for study and time to play. **PLUS**, we do the cooking! The cost is \$65/camper for 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, and materials. If you have a special lady in your life, consider giving the gift of camp.

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
 28 – Ethan Townsend

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 (Diane Venski)

1 – Rita Olson
8 – Rick Parks
15 – Betty Ashcraft
22 – Tony Deal
29 – Maurie Townsend

GREETERS (Judy Case)

1 – Susan and Gene Mussler
8 – Polly and Bid Sanders
15 – Gary and Patti Getner
22 – Frank and Mollie Marsh
24 – Wade Baumgardner
29 – Ramona Yrazabal

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (sign-up sheet)

1 – Barb and Roger Fogleman
8 – Linda Miller
15 – Potluck
22 – Jennifer Dillenbeck
29 – Doreen Solum

FLOWERS (sign-up sheet)

Christmas Décor

ADVENT CANDLE (Curtis Carlin)

1 – The Brumley Family
8 – The Carlin Family
15 – The Dillenbeck Family
22 – The Fogleman Family
24 –

USHERS (Curtis Carlin)

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Ann Carlin)

From Our Interim Pastor

This Advent season we will have as our theme, "The Signs of Christmas." These signs include the sign of hope, the sign of peace, the sign of joy and the sign of love. Our first sign comes from prophecy, Isaiah 40: 1-5, "*Comfort, O comfort my people says your God. A voice cries out, 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low. The uneven ground shall become level and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all people shall see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.'*"

In Idaho, we can appreciate the beauty and majesty of our wilderness area. It is awe-inspiring and humbling. Our Creator must have enjoyed fashioning it. Isaiah is saying that God's glory is revealed not only in the wonder of nature but through preparation for Christ's presence. We experience his presence in the down-to-earth needs we and our neighbors have, pushing a wheel-chair up a curb, taking a name from the giving tree, and making our church a welcoming place.

Ireaneus, a fourth century church leader wrote, "The glory of God is in human beings when they are fully alive." We need to be aware of what prevents life from being full lived. Sometimes obstacles get in our way rather it be illness, emotions, or circumstances which become mountains to climb. We may feel that we are lost in the wilderness alone and vulnerable. When we become aware of them and seek God's comfort and help, we wait with hope for the glory of the Lord to be revealed anew.

Come celebrate the signs of Christmas with us in worship.

Pastor Gary Smith

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1st Sunday Advent 1 10 a.m. Sunday School (practice) 11 a.m. Worship with Communion	2 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting 7 p.m. BSA	3 7 p.m. Cub Scouts	4 7 p.m. Venture Crew	5 6 p.m. Bell 7 p.m. Choir	6 1 – 5 p.m. Set up for the Christmas Bazaar	7 8 a.m. – noon Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar!
2nd Sunday Advent 8 10 a.m. Sunday School (practice) 11 a.m. Worship	9 6:30 Trustees 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 6 p.m. Bell 7 p.m. Choir	13 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship Potluck and Christmas Party Boy Scout	14 7 p.m. Community Christmas Concert Lock in
3rd Sunday Advent 15 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Christmas Program Christmas Potluck	16 7 p.m. BSA	17 7 p.m. Cub Scouts – Pack Meeting	18 7 p.m. Venture Crew	19 6 p.m. Bell 7 p.m. Choir	20	21
4th Sunday Advent 22 NO Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Christian Ed meeting (?)	23 7 p.m. Church Council meeting	24 ***7 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service***	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed No Choir Practices	27	28
29 NO Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	30	31 New Year's Eve				

January 2020 (subject to change)

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