

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org **January 2020** churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

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Search Committee Update

The search committee continues to work on your behalf. As of December 10th, in total, we have received and reviewed 12 applications in the past year. Of those we have completed video interviews with three, an additional two were asked for interviews but withdrew before being interviewed. Based on our criteria we found only one candidate worthy of a second video interview. That interview was recently completed. After discussing that interview the committee has determined further discernment about the candidate's suitability is needed. Our next step will be to arrange a face to face interview. It may take some time before this can be arranged due to the timing of the Christmas holidays. If this goes well, we may be able to move closer to a final decision on a candidate to present to the congregation.

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

Office Hours for New Year's

The Church office will be closed on **Wednesday and Thursday, January 1 and 2, 2020**. We will re-open at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 6, 2020.

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 2019.

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 2020 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 10th** 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 8th and 22nd**. We are studying *Falling Upward*, by Richard Rohr. Chapter questions are available from the bulletin board by the office or contact the office at churchinfo@mhfccucc.org to receive it by email.

All women of the church are invited to attend.

Prayer Breakfast

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

Date: **Saturday ~ January 18, 2020**

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

Guest Speaker: Phillip "P" Thompson

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

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

Tickets may be purchased from Joe McNeal, Mildred McNeal, CD Houston, any committee member or call 587-3227.

Annual Meeting and Reports

Our Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 26th** immediately following our worship service. This is an important meeting as we will vote on our final budget for 2020. 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 13th**. You can email them as a Word document to 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 19th**) immediately following worship. If possible, bring a dish to share and your own place setting. No matter what, all are welcome to the table.

Winter Snowdown at Pilgrim Cove Camp

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!

RSVP: by Sunday, **January 26th** to Kari and Lori Roberts
PCC Manager
Pilgrim Cove Camp
Ph: 208.634.5555
www.pilgrimcovecamp.org
manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org

Thank You

Hanging of the Greens

I would like to thank **EVERYONE** who came out to help with the Hanging of the Greens on November 30th. 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

From the National UCC Office

“The United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance presents this certificate with sincere thanksgiving to First Congregational UCC, Mountain Home, Idaho, for its generous and faithful support of the **2018 Christmas Fund** with gifts totaling \$508.

Brian R. Bodager The Rev. Krista L. Betz
President and CEO *Director, Ministerial Assistance*

The Pension Boards – UCC “

Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar

What a big success the Women's Fellowship Annual Christmas Bazaar was this year! A total of \$2,671.92 was raised to help out our church and community! This wonderful feat was achieved through the sale of Horner's Corners' pies and cinnamon rolls, the silent auction, the many baked and preserved food items, the lovely handmade goods, and the gently-used Christmas decorations.

Silent Auction:

1/3 cord firewood donated by Lee Wright...winning bid by Nadine Roberts

Three Wisemen donated by Merna Oliver...winning bid by Frankie Guerre

Jesus and Child figurine donated by Barb Fogleman...winning bid by Ann Carlin

Table runner donated by Linda Miller...winning bid by Nadine Roberts

Men's basket donated by Women's Fellowship...winning bid by Kate Johnsrud

Full-size. hand-made quilt donated by Kelli Collett...winning bid by Connie Donahue

Thank you to all who helped set-up, serve, cashier, work, clean-up and purchase the items. Thank you for the Scouts who helped ready the room. And special thanks to our male elves who helped so much: Eddie Bush, Lee Wright, Phil Miller and Truman Parker.

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 the years since 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 & 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 32 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 14 more children to have a great Christmas. So, in total we were able to help 46 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

Big appetites, constant conversation and laughter sums up our Christmas Potluck.

Thanks to:

- Women's Fellowship for providing the ham and Sherry Bush for cooking it.
- Social Committee members for doing all the kitchen and social hall preparatory work while I participated in the Children's Christmas play
- All the willing additional hands and hearts that helped move tables and chairs, washed, dried and put away dishes and so much more.

As life goes, there will be changes in the Social Committee in 2020. Mary Ann Hamilton, Heidi and Allan Harris will be leaving. I have enjoyed working with these happy, committed and efficient people!! They are textbook examples of our church's willingness to serve.

2020's Social Committee members are: Molly Marsh, Kelli Collett, Nadine Roberts, Beth DeVore, Kay Eilebrecht, Patti Getner, and Gary Getner

*Mollie Marsh
Chair, Social Committee*

Christmas Program

"God's Gift to Us" Sunday School play this year showcased our children, choir and comedians. Most importantly it highlighted the reason we celebrate this sacred season. The cast of children were Cassidy Carpentier, Addie Searle, Hunter Dillenbeck, Layla Brumley, Lucas Brumley, Hayden Brumley, Autumn Fogleman, Daniel Fogleman, and Annabelle Fogleman. They represented the birth of Jesus at the stable in Bethlehem then sang a song "Merry Christmas, Baby Jesus". Watching their performance helped all of us realize the beauty and wonder of the season.

Betty Ashcraft and Mollie Marsh portrayed two frazzled shoppers who had forgotten what the season was about until the harmonious carolers sang about the glory of Christmas. Many thanks to the choir led by Jennifer Dillenbeck for their melodious a capella singing. If you have a desire to sing along, join Mike Keas, Alice Keas, Kate Johnsrud, Phil Miller, Gail Banner, Grace Townsend, Nadine Roberts, Nancy Sobien,

Doreen Solum, Dorraine Aggen, Becky Hall, and others any Sunday.

Every year the children delight us with their acting and singing as they tell us stories of Christmas. Many thanks to the parents and grandparents who bring them to rehearsal and especially to Barb Fogleman and Aaren Brumley for all of their help in producing this play. Together our congregation promotes artistic opportunities in singing and acting to bring the stories of Jesus to life.

Thank you all for being part of this production.

Betty Ashcraft, Director

Editor's Note: A very special thank you to Betty Ashcraft, whose creativity and patience is a blessing to us all. Thank you so much, Betty.

Board members

Thank you to all the board and committee members whose terms finished up in 2019. Your service and dedication to the church family is much appreciated.

To all those coming on for their first term in 2020, thank you for bringing your talent and energy on-board. You, too, are much appreciated.

And for those who are in the midst of their terms and are guiding the new ones and continuing the work of those taking a break, THANK YOU, too.

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.**

Public Service Information

St. Luke's Elmore services

New St. Luke's Elmore Laboratory Hours
effective Thursday, January 2, 2020

7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday – Friday*

8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday*

*Excluding major holidays for outpatient
laboratory services.

St. Luke's Quick Care is now open.

Located on the St. Luke's Elmore campus in the
Elmore Specialty Clinic at 840 N. 4th East
Hours are Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

GriefShare

The Nazarene Church will begin another
GriefShare Support Group on Tuesday, January
7th at 7 p.m. For more information about this 13-
week support group, call (208)587-3093 or go to
the Nazarene website at www.mhnazarene.org.

Anniversaries for January

- 1 Nadine and Bob Roberts
- 1 Sylvia and Fred Sisneros
- 31 Linda and Philip Miller

Birthdays for January

- 3 Amy Carlton
- 5 Alan Estes
- 6 Skip Sobien
- 11 Richard Townsend
- 14 Charles Olson
- 18 Harold Henderson
- 18 Frank Marsh
- 18 David Olson
- 21 Angelina Pearsall
- 23 Lee Kaufman

Special Angels for January

LITURGISTS (Jennifer Dillenbeck)

- 5 – Grace Townsend
- 12 – Mike Keas
- 19 – Chris Paille
- 26 – Jennifer Dillenbeck

GREETERS (Heidi Harris)

- 5 – Mary Ann Hamilton
- 12 – Eddie and Sherry Bush
- 19 – Allen and Heidi Harris
- 26 – Mickie Betts

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up sheet)

- 5 – The Bush Family
- 12 – Doreen Solum
- 19 – Potluck
- 26 – Helena DeWeerd and Kelli Collett

FLOWERS (Sign-up sheet)

- 5 – Linda Miller

- 12 – Linda Miller
- 19 –
- 26 –

USHERS (Ann Carlin)

PARAMENTS (Allen Harris)

COMMUNION (Diane Venski)

From our Interim Pastor

*"In Him (Christ) was light and the light was
the life of men. The light shines in the
darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.
The word became flesh and dwelt among us.
We have seen his glory, glory of the one and
only Son from the Father, full of grace and
truth." (John 1:5, 14)*

I find it interesting that we celebrate Christ's
birth at the darkest time of the year. It seems
symbolic to me that we would celebrate the light
of the world during a period of darkness. Surely
there is plenty of darkness in our world with
terrorism, and threats of war and destruction. I
believe God understood the human predicament
and sent a prophet to say, "The people who
walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Those living in the land and shadow of death, a
light has dawned." (Isaiah 9:2)

When Ben Franklin wanted to interest the people
of Philadelphia in street lighting, he did not try to
persuade them by talking about it. Instead, he
hung a beautiful lantern on a long bracket before
his own door. Then he kept the glass brightly
polished and carefully lit the wick every night at
the approach of dusk. People wandering about
saw the bright light a distance away and came
under the influence of its friendly glow. It did
not take long before his neighbors began placing
lights on and in front of their homes. Soon the
whole city valued street lighting by vanishing the
darkness with light.

When we allow the Light of Christ into our
hearts this is what happens. People are drawn to
it. It is the most effective way people are led to
faith, not by sour-faced warning of what will
happen if they don't, but by clear and glowing
evidence what might happen if they follow the
light. Right here in the midst of the darkness of
our lives come the message of Christmas. He
brings light to our paths. Christmas is God
calling us, his children, saying, "you don't have
to live in darkness. Look to the light of my Son."

Martin Luther discovered a great theological
truth, "Darkness cannot overcome darkness, only
light can. Hate cannot overcome hate, only love
can."

Come worship and follow the Light of lights.

Gary E. Smith, Interim Pastor

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Office closed	2 Office closed No Bell or Chancel practices	3	4
5 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion	<i>Epiphany</i> 6 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting 7 p.m. BSA	7 12 – 2 p.m. Family Advocate	8 11 a.m. Women's Bible <u>Study</u> 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 12 – 2 p.m. Family Advocate	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 12 – 2 p.m. Family Advocate	22 11 a.m. Women's Bible <u>Study</u> 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 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	28 12 – 2 p.m. Family Advocate	29 7 p.m. Venture Crew	30 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice	31	

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion	3 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting 7 p.m. BSA	4 12 – 2 p.m. Family Advocate	5 7 p.m. Venture Crew	6 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice	7	8
Scout Sunday 9 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	10 6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting 7 p.m. BSA	11 12 – 2 p.m. Family Advocate	12 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Venture Crew	13 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice	14 Valentine's Day 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship Potluck and Meeting	15
16 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	17 President's Day Office Closed	18 12 – 2 p.m. Family Advocate	19 7 p.m. Venture Crew	20 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice	21	22
23 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship After worship: Christian Ed mtg.	24 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	25 12 – 2 p.m. Family Advocate 6 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	26 11 a.m. Women's Bible <u>Study</u> 7 p.m. Venture Crew Ash Wednesday Worship Service	27 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice	28	29