

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org

February 2020

churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Volume 53 - Issue 2

Annual Reports Available

If you were unable to attend the Annual Meeting held on January 26th and would like a copy of the 2019 Annual Report, they are available from the bulletin table in the sanctuary, from the church office or from our website

(www.mhfirstcongregational.org) on the "Events" page.

Donation Records 2019

The donation records for 2019 were mailed out with this newsletter on **January 28th**. If you do not receive your copy by **Friday, February 7th**, please contact the church office.

Boy Scout Sunday

Please welcome the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venture Crews on **Sunday, February 9th** as they celebrate Scout Sunday with us. All scouts are welcome to attend no matter which troop, pack, or crew you belong to.

Women of the Church

Flowers and Fellowship

If you indicated on your Time and Talent pledge card that you would like to host a Fellowship Hour or do flowers, you will not get a phone call asking you to do this. The sign-up sheet on the back table in the sanctuary is your "call". Pick a Sunday or two (or three!) that works for you, put your name on the line so it's reserved for you and that's all there is to it.

Women's Fellowship

All women of the church are invited to attend the Women's Fellowship Potluck Luncheons and meetings on the second Friday of the month at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

With that in mind, the **February** Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting will be on **February 14th** at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will be **Wednesday, February 12th and Wednesday, February 26th at 11:00 a.m.** in the Pastor's office. We are continuing to study *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. Chapter study questions are available from the office. All women of the church are welcome to attend. If you wish to be placed on the Women's Bible Study email list, please send an email to the church office at churchinfo@mhfccucc.org.

31st Annual Black History Banquet

The Mountain Home Black History Committee will be hosting its annual banquet on Friday, February 7, 2020. This year's theme is, "Black Americans and the Vote".

The Key note speaker will be Mrs. Patricia Kempthorne, former First Lady of the great State of Idaho.

The banquet will be held at The Elks Lodge, 325 S. 3rd West, on **Friday, February 7th**. Doors open at 6 p.m. and social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:15.

Dress is semi-formal. Ticket donation is \$30 per person. **Please RSVP by February 3.** For more information, call 587-3227.

Remember Valentine's Day

Friday, February 14th, is Valentine's Day. Besides remembering that special someone in your life, take a moment and drop a card to someone in a local care center, the VA Hospital, or someone who is a shut-in with no one to remember them. If you'd like to know who our shut-ins are, just call the office and we'll let you know.

Celebration of Life for Don Thoen

Our beloved Don Thoen passed away in Pocatello on December 30, 2019. A Celebration of Life will be held at First Congregational Church, Mountain Home, on **Saturday, February 15th at 11 a.m.** The family would love to have you come share your stories of Don and celebrate his life.

Black History Sunday

Sunday, February 16th we will celebrate Black History Sunday. Joe and Mildred McNeal will be hosting Fellowship Hour in honor of this special Sunday. This *is not* a potluck; you are the McNeal's guests.

Deadline for March Proclamation

February is a short month, so please have all your Special Angels and articles for **March's Proclamation** to the church office by **February 13th**. Thank you for your help.

Presidents' Day

The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, February 17th** in recognition of Presidents' Day.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be **Tuesday, February 25th at 6 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. This is not a potluck event. Pancakes, sausage, ham, and drinks will be provided.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday service will be at **7 p.m. Wednesday evening, February 26th** here at First Congregational Church.

Looking ahead to Lent and beyond

Wednesday Lenten potluck and meditations

Beginning on **Wednesday, March 4th**, we will have our traditional Wednesday Lenten Potluck and Meditation. Beginning at **6 p.m.** we will share in a potluck supper. Please bring food to share and your place setting, if possible. Beverages will be provided.

At 6:30, we will begin the Lenten meditation.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten offering will begin Sunday, March 1. This year's theme is *Invest in Futures*. Watch the bulletin and website for offering ideas. Offering will be taken on **Palm Sunday, April 5th**.

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering will also begin **Sunday, March 1** and will be taken through **Palm Sunday, April 5th**.

This very different, and oddly named, offering accomplishes a wonderful and not often thought of service for the disadvantaged in our community. Any time during Lent, bring in packages of *any* type of undergarments - socks, underwear, t-shirts, foundation garments - for any age group or gender. When all the offerings are collected, they will be taken to El-Ada for distribution to the disadvantaged in our area.

Spring Clean

The Annual Spring Clean will be **Saturday, April 4th, beginning at 9 a.m.** This event is open to *all* members/attendees of the church, not just the Trustees. Come on out and help clean windows, woodwork, the nursery, and weather permitting, the flower beds. Bring your favorite cleaning equipment and come join the fun.

Holy Week/Easter

Palm Sunday, April 4th, regular worship time of 11 a.m. This is when we will take the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering and conclude the Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering.

NO Lenten Potluck and Meditation on Wednesday, April 8th.

Maundy Thursday Meager Meal, Thursday, April 9th at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall – not a potluck.

Good Friday Service, Friday, April 10th location to be announced.

Easter Sunday, April 12th

7 a.m. – Easter Sunday Sunrise Service

7:45 a.m. – Easter Breakfast given by the men of the church

8:15 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt

11 a.m. – Easter Regular Worship

Annual Rummage Sale

The Women's Fellowship Annual Rummage Sale for 2020 is scheduled for **April 25th**. Now is the time to start cleaning out those garages, attics, basements, storage units, and spare bedrooms for those gently used items that help the ladies make this sale possible. If you have any questions or would like to lend a hand – men or women – please contact Nancy Sobien or Nadine Roberts.

Thank You

Christmas Fund 2019

The 2019 Christmas Fund offering was amazing! Our church family and friends gave \$957 to this very important fund that aids retired clergy and active clergy who find themselves in financial crisis. Thank you, Church Family, for caring for our pastors now and always.

Special Music

Many thanks to Doreen Solum (piano) and Dorraine Aggen (organ) for the beautiful duet they performed on Sunday, December 29th for our Special Music. It was a joy to hear.

January potluck helpers

Thank you to all the wonderful helpers that helped with last Sunday's Potluck!

A special thanks to those who filled vacancies due to Social Committee illnesses: Frankie, Vicki, Joseph! What a gift they gave us all!

Editor's note: thank you Mollie Marsh for coordinating everything that needs to be coordinated so we all can enjoy this monthly fellowship together.

Mildred McNeal

Thank you, Mildred, for the donation of 2 reams of paper – just in time for the massive printing of the Annual Report! Your donation is much appreciated and much needed.

The Annual Report

I would like to thank everyone who had the responsibility of getting your committee or board's annual report to the office so that it could be compiled into the 2019 Annual Report. Everyone did a wonderful job getting their reports to me in plenty of time to put it all together for the annual meeting. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated.

Jennifer Andersen,
Church Secretary

Summer Camp at Pilgrim Cove

Good afternoon from VERY snowy McCall, Idaho!

I hope that this finds you warmer than we are and well. It has been snowing off and on for a week and we are expecting a possible 18" more before the week is out. It should be a wonderful Winter Carnival for sure!

This year we are doing a few different things for our Kid's Camp in July.

1) We are looking for "sponsors", of sort, for some of our activities. We would like to have the Exodus campers (High School aged) go horseback riding as something different. I am trying to get that set up with Yahoo Corrals here in McCall to get a firm rate but we do know there will be a cost/camper. We are looking to send our Sojourners (Middle Schoolers) to the smoke jumper training post (which is free) but

then over to Ice Cream Alley which is about \$7/camper. Pilgrims will have their outing on pontoon boats to North Beach for the afternoon.

2) We are also looking for churches/individuals that would be willing to either send up art supplies or sponsor a project. This goes for our service projects as well. Lists of items/projects will be sent out at a later date (end of January).
3) For the last night of camp, we are going to have a carnival. We are looking for folks who can sponsor a "booth" (meaning prizes) and/or come up that evening to help run the booths. This is something our current campers have not experienced at camp but should be fun (fingers and toes crossed). I will be sending out a booth list when I send out the art information at the end of January.

4) Now to my last note. We received feedback that some folks don't have time to come and be counselors or such but would be willing to come up for an afternoon. We would LOVE that! We just have to know in advance so we can do a proper background check. Think about how you can help out because nothing you do is too small!

As for Kids Camp staffing this year, we are in need of leaders and counselors. We are also looking for a nurse to stay at camp for the week (Saturday July 11-Saturday July 18).

The biggest need we have, of course, is for campers. This year we are doing a discount for registering early (by June 1st) \$325 instead of \$350 per camper. We are also offering a deal for families sending multiple campers, \$300/camper for households sending more than one. This rate is not an early registration rate but is applicable any time.

Hopefully we can get a whole bunch of campers, former and new this summer. AND we would love to have a bunch of new volunteers (camp fees are covered for volunteers) to come up and enjoy the week on the lake.

Also, I wanted to share with you something that I think is exciting for kids' camp and possibly for your churches this summer as well.

As I have been looking at the history of the camp, one of the main emphases of the camp was hosting and having missionaries share their experiences with those assembled for camp. With that being said, I contacted National and lo and behold we will be hosting a missionary this summer! Not sure where they are out of but I think it is a great opportunity for kids to have a chance to see the Work is not just in their churches but in the wider world as well.

One thing they asked is if there might be another camp or someone who might want to host the missionary for a week on either side of camp. I replied that we have some churches that might be interested in the Boise area and that I would reach out. Consider this my reaching out. :) If you WOULD be interested let me know so I

can get that information to the coordinator for the summer planning.

Thank you for keeping the camp in your prayers!

With Love and Blessings!

Lori

Pilgrim Cove Camp

Ph: 208.634.5555

www.pilgrimcovecamp.org

[@pilgrimcovecamp](https://www.instagram.com/pilgrimcovecamp)

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Our Condolences

To Sue Stanek on the loss of her husband

To Kay Eilebrecht on the loss of her father

In Loving Memory

Don Thoen

November 5, 1939 – December 30, 2019

Birthdays in February

3 Julianne Mori	18 Betty Parks
5 Jo Gridley	19 Eddie Bush
7 Joshua Roeder	19 Chris Paille
10 Lawrence Pearsall	21 Marci Hamada
10 Janet Weise	21 Dena Olson
11 Susan Mussler	21 Elizabeth Parks
12 Merrilee Hiler	23 Rick Carlton
12 Alice Keas	24 Nadine Roberts
14 Jim Blanksma	25 Sue Baumgardner
17 Sam Hooley	27 Sara Duty
18 Betty Ashcraft	

Anniversaries in February

10	Terry and Cindy Lindqist
17	Jennifer & Ken Andersen

Special Angels for February

LITURGISTS (Heidi Harris)

- 2 – Polly Sanders
- 9 – Frank Marsh
- 16 – Mildred McNeal
- 23 – Heidi Harris

GREETERS (Diane Venski)

- 2 – Barb and Roger Fogleman
- 9 – Scouts
- 16 – Rita Olson
- 23 – Polly Sanders and family

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up sheet)

- 2 – Mollie and Frank Marsh
- 9 – Linda Thomsen
- 16 – Joe B. and Mildred McNeal
- 23 – **Need a volunteer**

USHERS (Diane Venski)

FLOWERS (Sign-Up Sheet)

- 2 – Mollie and Frank Marsh
- 9 – Linda Thomsen
- 16 – Nadine Roberts
- 23 – Nadine Roberts

PARAMENTS (Heidi and Allen Harris)

COMMUNION (Heidi Harris)

From the Interim Pastor

Building Your Spiritual Foundation

Jesus compared building your life's foundation to building a house on a secure foundation.

Unfortunately, some are built on sand and cannot stand against the forces that life brings. What foundation are we building our lives on? Instill your life and child with knowledge. No matter what age you are you are never too old to learn. In the book, The Mature Mind, the author writes that people add to their knowledge throughout life. In fact, the mature mind, he says, is able to grasp deeper concepts and conjoin opposing views and live with ambiguity.

As Christians we continue to add to our faith knowledge of the Bible and building a spiritual foundation on Christ. The Apostle Paul chastised the Corinthians in their search for worldly wisdom, saying, he wanted to know of first importance, Jesus Christ, the Wisdom of God. The Apostle Peter taught that for Christians, "No other foundation can anyone lay then what is laid, which is Christ the Lord." Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount with the parable of the two houses, one built on the sand and other on the rock. When the rains came and wind blew the house built on the sand collapsed but the one on the rock remained. Jesus said, "Everyone who hears these words and puts them into practice will be like the wise man who built on the rock."

Let us continue building on our spiritual foundation.

Rev. Gary Smith

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	5 7 p.m. Venture Crew	6 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice 7 p.m. Girl's 19	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 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Venture Crew	13 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice 7 p.m. Girl's 19	Valentine's Day 14 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship Potluck and Meeting	15 11 a.m. Celebration of Life for Don Thoen
Black History Sunday 16 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	17 President's Day Office Closed	18	19 7 p.m. Venture Crew	20 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice 7 p.m. Girl's 19	21	22 Washington's Birthday
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 6 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	26 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Venture Crew 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service	27 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice 7 p.m. Girl's 19	28	29

March 2020 (This calendar subject to change)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> 1 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion	2 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting 7 p.m. BSA	3	4 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck/6:30 Lenten Study 7 p.m. Venture Crew	5 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice 7 p.m. Girl's 19	6	7
DST Begins <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> 8 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	9 6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting 7 p.m. BSA	10 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Voting	11 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck/6:30 Lenten Study 7 p.m. Venture Crew	12 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice 7 p.m. Girl's 19	13 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship Potluck and Meeting	14
<i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i> 15 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	16 7 p.m. BSA	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck/6:30 Lenten Study 7 p.m. Venture Crew	19 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice 7 p.m. Girl's 19	20	21
<i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> 22 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 12:15 Christian Ed	23 7 p.m. Church Council	24	25 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck/6:30 Lenten Study	26 6 p.m. Bell practice 7 p.m. Chancel practice	27	28
<i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> 29 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	30 7 p.m. BSA	31				