

# Mountain Proclamations

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

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

November 2020

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## Fall Time Change

**Sunday, November 1, 2020**  
Turn your clock **back** one hour

## Worshipping together

We are continuing to observe COVID precautions. Please wear a face mask to worship and keep your physical distance.

The Fellowship Hall will be opened up for the colder months, but no refreshments will be served. Tables and chairs will *not* be available.

## Communion for EVERYONE!

**Please read carefully - Communion will be on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> in the same manner as it was served in September and October, including the drive-up communion from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. See below for a refresher**

Wafer is in a compartment on top. Another seal below the wafer separates it from the wine. **If you move the tab up and down a few times, it will separate more easily.**

### For those who are sheltering-in-place:

Self-contained, self-serve communion cups will be handed out, drive-through style, from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. A masked and gloved member of the Diaconate Board will be out front handing out the communion set and Pastor Gary will be there to speak the words of institution over the cup. Please follow the cones to the place of pick-up.

### For those who will be attending in – church worship:

You will pick up your Communion cup as you come in and save it for the regular communion service during worship.

## Stewardship Letters

Watch your mail for the Stewardship 2021 letter and pledge cards. These are the lifeblood of the church – time, talent, and treasure. Please give prayerful consideration to the gifts and blessings you have received and how you might return a portion of them to God's service.

## Giving Statements

Third quarter Donation Statements will be mailed around October 28. Monetary donations are an important part of keeping our church fully functioning. Your Donation Statement shows your pledge amount from the beginning of the year and your donations through/including October 4th. Thank you for your support of our church and church family. If you have any questions about your Donation Statement please contact the Financial Recording Secretary, Frank Marsh, at [REDACTED]

## Happy Crafters!

All crafters are invited to come to Craft Day at the church! There will be only one Craft Day in November and it will be held on **Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

This is not a closed group or exclusive to just the ladies of the church. Feel free to bring a friend to join in the fellowship and fun.

## Don't Forget to Vote

November 3, 2020 is Election Day

## Annual Budget and Election meeting

Budget and Election meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 p.m.**

## Officers, Board, and Committee

### Members

### Nominated for 2021

### ONE YEAR OFFICE

<u>Moderator:</u>	Phil Miller*
<u>Assistant Moderator:</u>	Maurice Townsend*
<u>Clerk:</u>	Grace Townsend*
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Eddie Bush*
<u>Financial Secretary:</u>	Frank Marsh*
<u>Historian:</u>	Kitty Singleton*
<u>Youth Coordinator:</u>	Frank Marsh*
<u>Parliamentarian</u>	Maurice Townsend*
<u>Pilgrim Cover Representative:</u>	Ken Andersen*
<u>Auditor:</u>	Appointed by Trustees for bi-annual review

### THREE YEAR TERMS

#### Diaconate Board:

Ann Carlin	Tony Deal
Jennifer Dillenbeck	Allen Harris
Heidi Harris	C.D. Houston
Linda Thomsen	Terry Lindquist
Sandy O'Connell*	Rick Parks
Diane Venski	Lee Wright

*Curtis Carlin will become a mentor to the Acolytes and is not a voting member*

#### Trustees:

Todd Paille*	Judy Case
Billy Roeder*	Gene Mussler
Mike Keas	Linda Ramsey

#### Christian Education:

Joyce Allgood*	Susan Mussler
Betty Ashcraft	Marlene Osborn

### ONE YEAR TERMS

#### Music Committee

Doraine Aggen	Gail Banner
Jennifer Dillenbeck	Mike Keas

Doreen Solum\*

#### Social Committee:

Molly Marsh	Kelli Collett
Sherry Bush	Nadine Roberts

Doreen Solum

\*Nominated members of each office, board and committee for the year 2021 are designated with an asterisk. We would like to thank everyone who volunteered and/or said "yes" to serve as officers, board members, and committee members and to all of those who agreed to finish their current terms and/or start their second term.

#### *Nominating Committee;*

*Grace Townsend, Chair*  
*Wade Baumgardner*  
*Judy Case*  
*Nadine Roberts*

### *It's a Pie Sale!!*

Due to Covid-19 precautions, the Women's Fellowship will not be having a pie auction, but they still present an opportunity to enjoy a fresh made pie you didn't have to make.

Order your Thanksgiving Pies November 3 – 17<sup>th</sup>. Pies may be picked up at the church on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> after church services. For those unable to come to church, delivery is available. Quantities are limited – first come, first serve. Choose from: Pumpkin, Apple, Cherry, Peach, Rhubarb, Pecan, Lemon Meringue, Chocolate Cream, and Cheesecake.

Minimum donation per pie is \$25. To order fill out the form found in your worship bulletin or

call Nadine Roberts at [REDACTED] or Nancy Sobien at [REDACTED]

### *Women of the Church*

#### *Women's Fellowship*

The November Women's Fellowship will be done via ZOOM. At this time, we have not determined a date or time. This will be announced in the bulletin, *In the Loop*, and through email. Make sure the office has your email address!

#### *Women's Bible Study*

The Women's Bible Study will meet the first and third Wednesdays in November, **November 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**. These studies are being done via ZOOM. Please contact Beth DeVore or the Church office if you are not getting the email updates and invites.

#### *Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar*

As with all things 2020 – the Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar is going to look quite different this year.

The Inventory – If you have crafted things for this year's Bazaar, **please bring them to the church by November 30<sup>th</sup>**. Bring them to the office, bring them to Worship, arrange with someone to pick them up. Just get them to the church on time.

The Sale – The sale will be virtual. Pictures will be taken and prices listed. These pictures will be posted in the *In the Loop* and on the church's website under the Women's Fellowship tab. **The sales will begin on December 5<sup>th</sup> and run through December 14<sup>th</sup>**. Purchases can be made by calling Linda Ramsey at [REDACTED] or Sherry Bush at [REDACTED]

Purchases are first come, first served!

**Editor's note:** Thank you for your continued support of the Women's Fellowship. They do so much for the church – let's be sure to give back in a big way.

### *Giving Tree*

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, the Giving Tree program has temporarily changed. This year, we will directly match a limited number of families with sponsors. We will provide basic information to the sponsors including the child's first name, age, sex, clothing size, and likes/dislikes.

Please Note:

\*Items gifted will be at the discretion of the sponsor.

\*Only sponsored families will be contacted.

\*Once contacted, families will have 48 hours to pick up items at the Chamber of Commerce, located at

205 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> E., Mountain Home, Idaho

Because we are trying to limit the amount of contact between donors, volunteers, and families, we are asking for donors to purchase items for all children in the selected family. This also means the items and the number of items will be at your discretion. Wrapping is optional but all items must be boxed per family. The committee will not be sorting items.

More details to come as we work out this new way of doing this. As always, Ann Carlin will be our point of contact for this project.

### *About the Annual Church Thanksgiving Dinner and Pledge Blessing Service*

As with so many things this year, the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will not happen. It would be quite difficult to safely serve dinner to 75 – 90 people in our Fellowship Hall. It's big, but not that big!

**The Pledge Blessing service will be part of the 11 a.m. regular Worship service.** If you have not been attending, simply mail back your pledge cards and they will be blessed right along with all the ones brought in that morning. You may also place your pledge cards in the UPS box on the west side (office side) of the church. **DO NOT PUT MONEY IN THE UPS BOX!**

### *Community Thanksgiving Service*

In an effort to keep our community safe, we will not have the Community Thanksgiving Service this year.

Please remember that the food security needs of the community *will* continue and perhaps become more pronounced. So, any monetary offerings or canned food items that you can provide for the Elmore County Ministerial Association will be much appreciated. Donated canned goods will go to the Grace Lutheran Food Bank.

### *Hanging of the Greens*

On **Saturday, November 28th**, (time to be announced) we will begin decorating the church for the coming Christmas season.

Beginning **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** you may start bringing in your live (no silk ones, please)

poinsettias. Those being shared as memorials or dedications, will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin so be sure to give this information to the church office by **Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**. Forms will be available on the back table beginning **Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**.

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. **If you want your poinsettia back after Christmas, please be sure to put your name on it.** You may take your plant home any time after our Christmas Eve candlelight service.

### *Thank you*

#### *Neighbors in Need*

The Neighbors in Need offering was collected on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Our generous collection for our neighbors was \$255. Thank you for spreading your generosity far and wide.

#### *Nominating Committee*

I would like to extend a big "THANK YOU" to the members of the nominating committee (Wade Baumgardner, Judy Case, and Nadine Roberts) who donated their time and talents on this committee. You are all very much appreciated.

We would also like to give a special thank you to all of those who considered taking and accepted a position as an officer, board member or committee member. With the pandemic continuing to ravage our world, our officers, boards and committees will have a continuing challenge like no other. Let us keep them in our minds and hearts as we make concessions to keep our community safe.

*Grace Townsend*  
*Chairman*  
*Nominating Committee*

**Editor's Note:** Thank you, Grace Townsend, for chairing this very important committee again this year.

#### *From Marlene Osborn*

Dear Church Family

Last Sunday (October 25) I was surprised by my brothers and sisters in Christ as I was presented with several lovely gifts. The huge thank-you card signed by so many of you contained a monetary gift, and there was a lovely floral arrangement made by Mollie Marsh, as well as a pretty corsage.

As I leave my position as one of our musicians, my heart is filled with gratitude for your

kindness and caring. You are much appreciated and loved.

*Many Thanks,  
Marlene Osborn*

### Upcoming Notes

#### *!Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!*

**At present**, we are planning our Christmas Eve worship service for **7 p.m.** on Christmas Eve. Please know that this may end up being cancelled should the infection numbers remain high. Keep yourselves safe!

### All Boards and Committees

Year-end Annual Reports are due in the office by **Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**, earlier if possible, so they can be prepared for distribution at our Annual Meeting on **Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**.

### Birthdays in November

2 – Alexis Parks	8 – Cara Grindle
2 – Samantha Pearsall	15 – Allen Harris
4 – Joe B McNeal	17 – Luke Estes
4 – Sue Stanek	22 – Fred Sisneros
4 - Phil Gridley	23 – Harris Allgood
5 – Layla Brumley	23 – Grace Townsend
6 – Helena DeWeerd	26 – Katie Parks
8 – Gloria Gaub	28 – Philip Miller

### Special Angels for November

#### LITURGISTS (Rick Parks)

1 – Gail Banner  
8 – Rita Olson  
15 – Betty Ashcraft  
22 – Rick Parks  
29 – Maurie Townsend

#### GREETERS (Not in November)

#### FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Not yet)

#### USHERS (Lee Wright)

#### FLOWERS (Lee Wright and Sherry Bush)

#### PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

#### COMMUNION (Linda Thomsen)

#### NURSERY (Debi Deal)

### From our Interim Pastor

Without a Vision the People Perish

To have vision is to have a sense of sight, to see, to have foresight and understanding. I learned this verse from Proverbs in the King James

Version that read, “Without a vision the people perish.” Throughout the years it has given me much insight. Without an understanding of what my purpose is I wander ineffective through life but give me a clear picture of the task before me and I can focus my energy and talents to accomplish it. Charles Swindoll proposes that, “Vision is essential for survival. It is spawned by faith, sustained by hope, sparked by imagination, and strengthened by enthusiasm. It is greater than sight, deeper than a dream, broader than an idea. Vision encompasses vast vistas outside the realm of the predictable, the safe, the expected. No wonder we perish without it.”

Someone has said that vision is looking at life through the lens of God’s eye. In the Old Testament the prophets did see visions of future events and spoke to God’s people of them. Joel received a vision from God and said, “I will pour out my spirit on all people, your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men dream dreams, your young men see visions. . . and every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” We have understood that vision fulfilled on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given the church. Peter quotes this passage saying that this prophecy was fulfilled.

God’s vision, God’s purpose for humanity was salvation for all. When God’s vision could not be accomplished through the Law and prophets alone, God sent us his son, Jesus Christ. In preparation for the time when he would be gone, Jesus formed a community of faith to carry on the vision. One day he asked his disciples who do people say that I am and they responded with the popular men of faith, John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets. Then he asked, “Who do you say I am?” Peter spoke up, “You are the Christ, the son of the living God.” Jesus responded, “Blessed are you, on this rock of confession, I will build my church.”

The vision for the future salvation of humanity was the church. The Greek word for church here is “Ekklesia” that literally means, “the called out ones.” It has its background in the villages and hamlets where the community was called out of their homes and shops to hear the town crier shout out the news. The church is those who have responded to call and came out to assemble together to hear the good news of God’s love. Over the years we have added to the interpretation, saying that the church is those called out of the world and worldly values to come together to hear and be the good news.

During this period of time as we are separated from one another, don’t lose sight of our vision as a community of faith called to love and serve one another.

*Pastor Gary Smith*

*Both months are subject to change*

## November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 – 10:30 a.m. Drive up Communion 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	2 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 p.m. Troop 57 7 p.m. Venture Crew 57	3  <b>Pie Sale begins</b>	4 11 a.m. ZOOM Women's Bible Study	5 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir  7 p.m. Troop 19	6	7
8 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	9 6:30 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57 meets	10	11	12 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	13 Women's Fellowship to be announced	14
15 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Worship No Christian Ed. mtg.	16 7 p.m. Troop 57 7 p.m. Venture Crew 57	17  <b>Pie Sale ends</b>	18 11 a.m. ZOOM Women's Bible Study	19 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir  7 p.m. Troop 19	20	21 Eagle Court of Honor?
22 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Pledge Blessing	23 7 p.m. Church Council	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day Office closed	27	28 Time TBA Hanging of the Greens
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 29 NO Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	30 7 p.m. Troop 57 7 p.m. Venture Crew 57 Court of Honor	<b>Deadline for Bazaar items 11/30</b>				

## December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 11 a.m. ZOOM Women's Bible Study	3 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir  7 p.m. Troop 19	4	5 <b>Virtual Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar begins</b>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 6 10 – 10:30 a.m. Drive up Communion 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	7 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 p.m. Troop 57 7 p.m. Venture Crew 57	8	9	10 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir  7 p.m. Troop 19	11 Boy Scout	12 Lock-In?
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 13 10:15 Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	14 6:30 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57 meets <b>*See note</b>	15	16 11 a.m. ZOOM Women's Bible Study	17 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir  7 p.m. Troop 19	18	19
<i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 20 NO Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	21	22	23	24 7 p.m. Candlelight Service	25 Christmas	26
27 NO Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	28 7 p.m. Church Council	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	<b>*NOTE Virtual Women's</b>	<b>Fellowship Christmas Bazaar ends 12/14</b>