

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org **January 2021** churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

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These Days

The *These Days* Devotional booklets have finally arrived!!!! They were shipped late, due to, you guessed it, COVID. Stop by the office to pick yours up or call to arrange delivery.

Thank you, Helena DeWeerd, for your generous donation again this year to provide these devotional booklets for us.

Worship in January

January worship will continue to be on YouTube – no in-person worship. Bulletins and sermons will continue to be mailed and emailed to our local members. Our YouTube Channel is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4te-AbJS-hGeUS6c1cmVA/>

Communion will be shared much as it was in December. We will do the **Drive-up Communion from 10 to 10:30 a.m.** on Sunday, January 3rd, for those who wish to receive it in-person. Pastor Gary and a member of the Diaconate Board will meet you as you pull up to the entry overhang and they will bless and give the Elements. You may also come by the office sometime during the week before the First Sunday and pick up your communion cup to have for Sunday worship or you may use your own bread and juice, donuts and coffee, tea and toast – whatever allows you to feel connected and part of the meal.

Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday School

Sunday School classes are still on hold through January.

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has been working diligently to finish our calling of Rev. Paul VanAntwerp to be our Settled Pastor. We have been working with our conference minister to be sure we are doing everything acceptable in this time of COVID reality. Pastor Paul has accepted our Call Agreement, and now we are just waiting

on the results of our congregation's vote after viewing his Candidate's Service. If that is positive, we anticipate that he will be able to begin his ministry with us on or before March 1st. God has blessed us in so many ways through this journey, and we are so grateful for that!

Gail Banner and Ken Andersen
Search Committee Co-chairs

Women of the Church

Fellowship and Flowers

At this time, Fellowship hosts/hostesses are not needed. However! Flowers on the altar are still needed for the YouTube worship. Please contact the church office if you would like to provide flowers for the altar on any given Sunday in January.

Women's Fellowship

Our Women's Fellowship will kick off the new year with a ZOOM meeting at **11 a.m. on Friday, January 8th**. If you have been thinking of joining Women's Fellowship, the start of the new year would be a really good time to start.

If you need to be added to Women's Fellowship email list, please contact the church office at:

churchinfor@mhfccucc.org

Women's Bible Study

We will be doing a study of Paul's letter to the Philippians by Sarah Koontz.

<https://livingbydesign.org/free-bible-studies/>

The site titles it JoyFULL, and you will need to sign up for the emails to get the materials.

We will be doing it in four sessions, instead of the three-week plan outlined, but given that there are four chapters, it should be easy to modify.

This will be for January and February, same time – **10:30 a.m. 1st and 3rd Wednesday s** and structure as before – via ZOOM. Invitations will be sent by email before the meeting time.

January's studies will be at **10:30 a.m. on January 6th and 20th.**

If you are not on the Women's Bible Study email list, email the church office at the below email address to be added to the mailing list:

churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

All women of the church are invited to attend.

Prayer Breakfast

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and in helping to keep our community safe; we will not be having our annual MLK Prayer Breakfast in 2021. Prayerfully, we will return in January 2022. We are asking that on January 18, 2021, the day Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., holiday is observed, marking the 26th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy, we are asking all to take a moment to pray for essential workers, front line workers, services workers, our communities and our country.

Remember, even with all the chaos 2020 has presented us with, there is still so much to be thankful for. We'd even argue one of the greatest gifts this challenging year has given us was a new perspective on the things we've been taking for granted all this time! A new perspective on just how grateful we are for the simplest of things. And while many are still struggling, we should take a moment and practice some gratitude for all the lessons 2020 has brought us and always look into ways that we can gratefully serve others.

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Mountain Home Community Black History Committee

Annual Meeting and Reports

Our Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 17th at 12:30 p.m. via ZOOM**. A link will be sent out to all resident members with an email on record. Simply click the link in the email and it will automatically go to the ZOOM.US website and put you in the meeting or the waiting room.

If you are getting the weekly email *In the Loop*, we have your email address. If you are not receiving it, we don't have your email address. Please contact the church office to share your email address. The Annual Report and Budget 2021 will be mailed out to local members

approximately 7 days before the meeting. They will also be attached to the *In the Loop* the Thursday prior to the meeting.

This is an important meeting as we will vote on our final budget for 2021. 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, please do so by **January 7th** so it can be mailed out to Resident Members in time. You can email them as a Word document to churchinfo@mhfccucc.org or bring them into the office as a hard copy.

Office Closed January 18

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the church office will be closed on **Monday, January 18th**.

Christian Ed meetings

Due to the Annual Meeting being on the third Sunday, the Christian Education meeting will be rescheduled. Your chairperson will contact you when an alternate time and date has been set.

Thank You

From Ramona Yrazabal

Dear Church Family, Pastor Gary, Jennifer and Everyone,

Can't thank you enough -

For: Notes of encouragement from Grace and Maurie and Linda Ramsey;

For: the "Pocket Cross" and everyone who took the time to make it. I won't be without it;

For: the monthly Loop and the weekly sermons and Proclamations;

For: the "drive by" Communion;

For: Pastor Gary and his words of strength and the Committee, too;

For: Pastor Gary and everyone who participates in the "YouTube" church service. It has helped so much to feel connected and thought of.

This has been a trying year, but with dear people like you, we will get through it.

Bless you!

Ramona Yrazabal"

Hangings of the Greens

In an effort to keep as many people safe as possible, Eddie Bush put up most of the Christmas finery this year. The Diaconate Board put up the garland and Heidi and Allen Harris and Linda Ramsey put up the banners – all at different times to help facilitate physical distancing.

Thank you, Everyone, for the amazing team work and coordination. The Sanctuary was her usual lovely Christmas self.

Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar 2020

Women's Fellowship would like to thank all of you who participated in this year's virtual Christmas bazaar; it was greatly appreciated. A special thanks to all of those who made crafts and foodstuffs to sell. As with all things 2020 and COVID, the new format for our bazaar was an experiment. We certainly missed the normal get together, not to mention the cinnamon rolls, pie and coffee, but wanted to continue our tradition in the only way we felt was responsible.

With fewer buyers, we weren't as successful as in previous years but, given the challenges we faced, we did okay and this income will help us continue our goal of supporting the Church's programs and needs. As of December 29th, we made \$981.00.

*Thanks for your support
Women's Fellowship*

Samaritan's Purse

The stuffed shoeboxes the Women's Fellowship prepared and mailed that were filled with gifts and treasures you donated have found their way to a Mexican village to brighten their holiday and help them learn how the baby we celebrate has become the Savior they can depend on. Great work, Everybody. This is something that just might become an annual tradition.

Giving Tree 2020

The Chamber of Commerce expressed their appreciation for our participation in the rather unique Giving Tree 2020. With our help and many others, the Chamber was able to serve over 500 children. Ann Carlin will give a more detailed report in the February *Proclamaiton*.

Christmas Cards

The Church received several Christmas cards from members and friends far and near. They will be on the wall by the office for several weeks for folks to view whenever possible.

Thank you, Dear Friends and Church Family, for remembering all of us in this way – Kay Eilebrecht, Ken Hill, Anne Parker and family, the National Church Office, to name a few.

Christmas Fund

Without all the usual announcements and the purple or red envelope to remind us, the Christmas Fund was a bit smaller this year, but it was still there! Approximately \$270 has been collected for this important offering.

Paper!!

Thank you, thank you!!! to whoever left a ream of paper in the office over the Christmas weekend. It takes a lot of paper to keep the church members connected in normal times and so much more in these unique times. Thank you!

Doreen Solum

“Dear Church, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful folk at our church who have served as the hands of Christ to me and my family after my surgery. We were amazed and touched by the many hand-delivered yummy meals, cards, flowers, gifts, and downright Loving Kindness of you all. I just can't thank you enough. My husband and I are deeply grateful for all of you and can't wait to fellowship with you again. What a Wonderful church family we have. The video recorded church services (especially the touching Christmas Eve service) help sustain me.

God bless you all ...from Ted and Doreen Solum and Chris and Wendy Franklyn family”

Board members

Thank you to all the board and committee members whose terms finished up in 2020. Your service and dedication to the church family is much appreciated.

To all those coming in on for their first term in 2021, 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, or renewed for yet another term, 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 or the UPS

box. 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

GriefShare

The Nazarene Church will begin another GriefShare Support Group on Tuesday, January 5th 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. Our church contact for this is Mollie Marsh.

Our Sympathy and Love

Roy Leonard DeVore, Sr.

April 10, 1949 – December 15, 2020

Anniversaries for January

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

Birthdays for January

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

Special Angels for January

LITURGISTS (Rick Parks)

- 3 – Rita Olson
- 10 – Rick Parks
- 17 – Mollie Marsh
- 24 – Jennifer Dillenbeck
- 31 – Maurie Townsend

GREETERS (Not for January)

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Not for January)

FLOWERS (Sign-up sheet)

- 3 – Christmas Décor
- 10 – Need volunteer
- 17 – Need volunteer
- 24 – Need volunteer
- 31 – Need volunteer

USHERS (Heidi and Allen Harris)

PARAMENTS (Allen Harris)

COMMUNION (Linda Thomsen)

From our Interim Pastor

I like to view Christmas as a beginning, not an ending of our celebration. Sadly, many are concluding Christmas as they take down the tree, the outdoor lights and attempt to get the house back to normal. On December 25 we began a new church season, Christmastide, and now we rejoice in the birth and life of our Lord. Remember the twelve days of Christmas? We participate not only in the twelve days but all year through as we live the Christian life that Jesus taught us.

One of my favorite thoughts about this time of year was written by Dr. Howard Thurman, one of this country's great men-of-color preachers:

When the song of the angels is stilled; When the star in the sky is gone;

When the Kings and princes are home; When the shepherds are back with their flock

The work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations, to begin peace among the brother, to make music in the heart.

The Christmas presence of Christ in our lives now takes root and blossoms into acts of compassion and love for one another. Thank you, Members of First Congregational, for living out your faith all year through.

Gary Smith

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day	2
3 10 – 10:30 a.m. Drive-up Communion 11 a.m. On-line Worship w/ Communion	4 6:30 p.m. Diaconate	5	6 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Women's Bible Study Annual Report article deadline	7 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	8 11 a.m. Women's Fellowship meeting via ZOOM	9
10 11 a.m. On-line Worship	11 6:30 Trustees meeting	12	13	14 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	15	16
17 11 a.m. On-line Worship 12:30 Annual Meeting - ZOOM	18 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed	19	20 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Women's Bible Study	21 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	22	23
24 11 a.m. On-line Worship	25 7 p.m. Church Council meeting	26	27	28 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	29	30
31 11 a.m. On-line Worship						

February 2021 - subject to change

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 p.m. Diaconate 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57 - maybe	2	3 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Women's Bible Study	4 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	5	6
7 10 – 10:30 a.m. Drive-up Communion 11 a.m. On-line Worship w/ Communion	8 6:30 Trustees 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57 - maybe	9	10	11 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	12 11 a.m. Women's Fellowship Meeting via ZOOM	13
14 11 a.m. On-line Worship	15 President's Day Office Closed	16 6 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - <u>Maybe?</u>	Ash Wednesday 17 10:30 a.m. ZOOM Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship	18 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	19	20
1 st Sunday of Lent 21 11 a.m. On-line Worship	22 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. Troop and Crew 57 - maybe	23	24 Lenten Meditation?	25 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	26	27
2 nd Sunday of Lent 28 11 a.m. On-line Worship						