

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org

October 2021

churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Volume 54 - Issue 9

Neighbors in Need

In 2021, Neighbors in Need “Unfailing Love” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. On-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities. We will collect the offering on **Sunday, October 3, 2021** as part of World Communion Sunday.

For more information about what the Neighbors in Need offering does, go to www.ucc.org/nin

Craft Days for October

October’s craft days will be **Fridays the 1 and 15th at 1 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your supplies and create with good friends and fellow crafters. **Feel free to bring a friend!**

Office Closed

In observance of Indigenous Peoples Day, the church office will be closed on **Monday, October 11th.**

Mid-Year 2021 Treasures Report

As of September 15th, we have received General Fund donations of \$89,161 and Designated Donations of \$4,565. That compares to \$69,078 in General Donations and \$9,269 in Designated Donations at this time last year.

We have spent \$82,438 from the General Fund. Designated expenditures are as follows: \$1,541 from Special Offering donations has been sent to the Conference; \$1,806 from the building fund was spent on security cameras and computer/communication equipment; and \$13,566 was spent on replacing the old single-pane windows in the fellowship hall with high efficiency double-pane windows (\$12,356 came from the endowment fund and \$1,250 from donations).

We are truly fortunate to be financially sound during these difficult times, with the COVID pandemic and with much uncertainty in the country and world. Our financial standing is due both to the support we have received and the careful management of our spending and

endowment funds over the years. We are diligently striving to continue these practices.

Thanks for your continuing generosity in supporting the church.

Eddie Bush
Treasurer

Women of the Church

Women’s Fellowship Potluck and meeting

Women’s Fellowship and Potluck will be on **Friday, October 8th** at 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Masks are required, except while you are eating.

Samaritans Purse Christmas Shoeboxes

With the help of the Church Family, the Women’s Fellowship will be working with Samaritans Purse doing up Christmas Shoeboxes again this year. This project will begin in November with the list of items needed.

There will be one difference this year. **We DO NOT need shoe boxes.** If you’ve been hanging on to them for this project, you may recycle them now.

Pie Auction

There will not be a Pie Auction this year, **BUT** there will be something going on to help you with your pies. Details coming soon.


The Christmas Bazaar!

We will probably be doing the Christmas Bazaar the same way we did last year – on-line and through a brochure. So if you’ve been making projects for the Bazaar, keep on crafting! We’ll need them.

More information will be available in the November Mountain Proclamations.

We have a new Church Historian

Kelli Collett has agreed to take Kitty Singleton’s place as Church Historian. Thank you, Kelli!

Kelli is asking for your help in this. If you know of something that members of our church are involved in or you see an article in the Statesman or the Mountain Home News that is about one of our church members or friends, please let her know. 

Bulletin Sponsors for 2022

It is time to start signing up to sponsor a worship bulletin for 2022. The sign-up sheet is on the back table in the sanctuary. Choose the worship service you would like to sponsor and write your name next to that date; please note if you wish to remain anonymous. You may make your donation of \$10 per Sunday sponsored any time before the end of 2022.

Please mark your check for the bulletin date that you are sponsoring. If you have any questions about how this works, contact the church office at 587-4969.

Pilgrim Cove Camp Closing Camp Weekend

Dear Church Family and Friends,

It is that time of year already. It is time for our annual fall work weekend. Our work weekend is **October 15-17, 2021** and we have many projects to complete before winter sets in at Pilgrim Cove Camp. Projects will include: getting Old Rice closed up, bringing in the boat docks, putting away all the summer equipment, closing up all of our summer only buildings, fall site cleanup, site projects and much more.

We will provide food and lodging for all participants whether you come for the day or the weekend. The work will be done on Saturday from about 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing many of you again and new folks too. **Please RSVP to the camp office by Oct 12** so we can be prepared to take care of you.

Thank you all for your continued support of the ministry at Pilgrim Cove Camp.

Jeremy Force

Email: manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org

Phone: 208-634-5555

Church Halloween Party

The Annual Church Halloween Party has been suspended for the health and safety of Church Family and Friends.

Thanks

Thank you from the Card Elves

They requested; you responded!!!! When the Church Card Elves asked for any extra all-occasion cards you might could spare, you responded with your usual generousness and they are very grateful. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Thank you to Name Takers

From the first Sunday that we went back to worshipping in person, names have been jotted down on a list so that if the unthinkable happened and someone at worship unknowingly brings in COVID, we can contact those who were in attendance so they could be watchful of their own health.

Diane Venski has been absolutely wonderful about stepping up and taking names when I'm running late or out of town and names need to be recorded. She's done this several Sundays in a row. Linda Ramsey and Ann Carlin have also stepped in to help as well when Diane could not be in worship.

Thank you all for helping to keep our church family and friends safe and being a huge help to me.

Jennifer Andersen
Church Secretary

From the Loewen Family

"Thank you for serving our family in our time of need at Dad's passing. May God richly bless you all!

Gratefully,
Rev. Jeffrey Loewen"

"Thank you so much for all you did for our family. Dad loved going to church there and we appreciate your love and support.

God Bless You,
Stephanie Loewen"

"Thank you for celebrating my dad's memory. He loved being part of the church. Thank you.

Charlie Loewen and family"

More Office Help

Thank you to Vickie Armstrong who comes in after the Liturgical Discussion Group and sets up the Children's Bulletin baskets with new bulletins and freshly sharpened colored pencils. This "small" act helps so very much in the office.

Pop Tabs!!!!

We did it again! We have filled the pop tab jug at the back of the church. Keep up the good work – so easy and helps so much.

For those who do not know – we collect *aluminum* pop tabs to take to the Ronald McDonald House. They cash them in to purchase the items needed to run the Ronald McDonald House. It is amazing how much these little pieces of aluminum help out. Keep 'em coming!!!

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

To our wonderful church family Curtis & I would like to take this time to thank you all so very much for all the school supplies & cash donations for The Backpack Bridge. Thanks to your generosity & the generosity of others in the community we were able to raise almost \$2,600 in school supplies & cash for this wonderful organization. It warms our hearts so much to know that we are members of such a loving, giving and compassionate church. If you would still like to contribute school supplies, coats, or a monetary gift please let us know. Again, THANK YOU ALL so much for your generosity.

*Sincerely,
Ann & Curtis Carlin*

from The Backpack Bridge Founder

"To the members of the First Congregational Church, thank you so much for your generous donations of school supplies & monetary donations. Please know that everything you donated will go back to our community tenfold. Any child, teacher or family that needs supplies, coats, etc. will get what they need. Again, thank you all so much for your generosity."

Tamara "Tami" Mouser

From St. Luke's

"First congregational Church September 24,2021

Thank you for your generosity! The Staff loved the refreshments!

Stay Well,
St. Luke's Elmore

This is so appreciated – Bill ☺"

Subway Sandwich Shop

While we know Subway probably won't see *this* thank you, we do want our church family to know how wonderful this company in our town is. When the Women's Fellowship went to them to purchase the lunch for St. Luke's Elmore, they gave them a really deep discount – they charged the Women's Fellowship **\$0.00 for 100 sandwiches**. This was an awe-inspiring donation for this major company to make.

The next time you don't feel like cooking, think about going to Subway as a show of gratitude for helping us help our healthcare workers.

Community Involvement

Giving Tree

There will be a Giving Tree this year. More to come as they work out the details. As always, Ann Carlin will be our point of contact for this project.

Coming Events

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday, November 7, 2021, turn those clocks back one hour. Like we need another hour of 2021.

Annual Budget and Election Meeting

The Annual Budget and Election Meeting will be after worship on **Sunday, November 14th**.

Thanksgiving events

We will not have our Thanksgiving Dinner this year. Our Pledge Blessing Service will be incorporated in the 11 a.m. worship service, where we will bless our pledge offerings and our Time and Talent offerings. Please be thinking about the ways you can give back to the God with your time, talents, and treasure.

Directory Updates



In Loving Memory

**Otho George "Bid" Sanders
May 23, 1938 – September 8, 2021**

October Birthdays

- 1 – Dale Hooley
- 2 – Suzanne Dillard
- 4 – Lauren Tomsic
- 7 – Joyce Allgood
- 7 – Jay Leonard
- 9 – Rick Parks
- 10 – Terri Jones
- 13 – Kristy Blanksma
- 13 – Mary Ann Hamilton
- 16 – Henry Toy
- 21 – Karen Jumonville
- 22 – Cindy Lindquist
- 23 – Mariah Parks
- 25 – Mollie Marsh
- 26 – Linda Ramsey
- 28 – Booker Parker
- 29 – Jonathen Deal

October Anniversaries

- 8 – Jeremy and Michaela Loosli
- 18 – Janet & Bud Weise
- 18 – Ann & Curtis Carlin
- 30 – Anne Parker & Paul Taggart

Special Angels for October

LITURGISTS (Jennifer Dillenbeck)

- 3 – Frank Marsh
- 10 – Gail Banner
- 17 – Mike Keas
- 24 – Susan Mussler
- 31 – Jennifer Dillenbeck

GREETERS (Diaconate Board)

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Not in October)

FLOWERS (Sign-Up Sheet)

3 – Nadine Roberts
10 – Anita Christianson
17 – Joyce and Harris Allgood
24 – Lori Levis
31 –

USHERS (Lee Wright)

PARAMENTS (Allen Harris)

COMMUNION (Heidi Harris)

From Pastor Paul

Psst. I'll let you in on a little secret...when I begin ministry at a new church, first thing I like to do is hop into the kitchen during a fellowship time and dive into washing the dishes. There's two reasons for this:

First is to show that I'm not afraid to do the dirty work (clean work?) in the church. I'll take out the garbage. I'll sweep the floors. I've been known to clean a bathroom or two when it was messed up overnight. I've told a great many of you that when I was called by Jesus he reached out his hand and I noticed he had dirty fingernails—and I was guided to be well-aware of those dirty fingernails. My call to ministry from Jesus was not to be in the head, but in the hands as well.

Second reason I do the dishes? I like the company. The chit-chat. The tangents of conversation. The real stories from real people that sometimes don't get shared in times of worship or in church meetings. In those conversations I witness hopes and fears and love and grace, and I feel blessed.

For this month's commentary, I feel moved to share with all of you that this is what we are as a church. Real. Human. Shared. Full of love and full of grace. ...And, as we tend to think in binaries in our culture, how do we describe the opposite of those attributes? Proprietary. Institutionalized. Bureaucratic. Problem is, those second descriptors are not where people's faith is practiced. That's not where people's soul's dwell.

So I want to encourage you here to get your whole self involved in the life of your church. Put it this way: if someone is sad, you would walk with them and comfort them. Likewise, if there's a need in the church, respond. If something is awry, take initiative. The ministry we share longs for the active engagement of your hands as much as your heads and your hearts. Systems are in place to govern and keep order in churches, but I think we know a thing or two about how Jesus responded to pre-existing systems of order and governance.

Writing those words made me think of a piece by Uruguayan author Eduardo Galeano. In his collection of essays and poems entitled "The Book of Embraces" he shared this:

Sixto Martinez completed his military service at a Seville garrison.

In the middle of the patio was a bench. Next to the bench, a soldier stood guard. No one knew why the bench needed guarding. They guarded it because they guarded it. Day and night, all nights and all days. And generation after generation of officers transmitted the order and the soldiers obeyed. No one doubted, no one questioned. If as such it is done, and as such always have been done, a reason there had to be.

And like this it continued until one person, I don't know which general or colonel, wanted to see the original order. He had to forage the archives. And after much digging, he knew. Thirty-one years, two months and four days ago, an official ordered a guard to be placed by the bench that had recently been painted so that no one happened to sit on the fresh paint.

It's not typical, nor expected, for a pastor to clean the casserole dishes. But why not? Why not take initiative? Why not upset the apple cart of system and order? Why not follow the model of Jesus and challenge the existing norms, the present bureaucracy? Why not get beyond the head-game of structure and order and into the hand-game of serving and sharing? Not just to alleviate what is awry, but for the joy of sharing good work for the benefit of others. There's love there, and love (not proprietary judgment and bureaucratic structure) is the oil from which our Christian lanterns burn.

I was telling a group recently that I spent many years building walls and guarding myself against negativity in my life, but in the moment of feeling love in my life again, it felt like the walls crumbled. Ten years of building walls crumbled in the span of a short few months. That's the power of sharing. That's the power of souls being free to thrive. That's the power of grace.

So I invite you: question the existing models. Question the bureaucracy. Question the walls that were built to keep you, and others, in. Historically, and theologically, you are in good company, and you never know when love and grace will be the result of your efforts.

*Keep in touch,
Pastor Paul*

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10 a.m. Quilters 1 p.m. Craft Day	2 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
3 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion Neighbors in Need offering	4 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 Troop/Crew 57	5 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	6 7 p.m. Book Study	7 9 a.m. Breakfast at the Manhattan 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel 7 p.m. Troop 19	8 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship maybe	9 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
10 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	11 Columbus Day Office closed 7 Troop/Crew 57 6:30 Trustees	12 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	13 7 p.m. Book Study	14 9 a.m. Breakfast at the Manhattan 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel 7 p.m. Troop 19	15 1 p.m. Craft Day	16 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
17 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship A.W. Christian Ed. meeting	18 7 Troop/Crew 57	19 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	20 7 p.m. Book Study	21 9 a.m. Breakfast at the Manhattan 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel 7 p.m. Troop 19	22	23 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
24 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	25 7 Church Council 7 Troop/Crew 57	26 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	27 7 p.m. Book Study	28 9 a.m. Breakfast at the Manhattan 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel 7 p.m. Troop 19	29	30 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
31 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship						

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 Troop/Crew 57	2 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	3 7 p.m. Book Study	4 9 a.m. Breakfast at the Manhattan 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel 7 p.m. Troop 19	5 10 a.m. Quilters	6 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
7 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	8 6:30 Trustees 7 Troop/Crew 57	9 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	10 7 p.m. Book Study	11 Veterans Day 9 a.m. Breakfast at the Manhattan 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel 7 p.m. Troop 19	12 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship maybe	13 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
14 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship Congregational Budget and Election meeting	15 7 Troop/Crew 57	16 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	17 7 p.m. Book Study	18 9 a.m. Breakfast at the Manhattan 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel 7 p.m. Troop 19	19	20 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
21 10 Sun. School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Pledge Blessing Service	22 7 Church Council	23 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	24	25 Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed	26	27 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
28 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	29 7 Troop/Crew 57	30 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion				