

# *Mountain Proclamations*

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

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

**September 2021**

[churchinfo@mhfccucc.org](mailto:churchinfo@mhfccucc.org)

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## *Our COVID policy*

Masks are not required for those that are **fully vaccinated**. Other social distancing procedures will stay in place for now. *Anyone who is not fully vaccinated is requested to continue wearing a mask*, and anyone who is vaccinated but not comfortable without a mask may, of course, continue wearing one.

## *Fellowship Hour Suspended*

Due to the COVID increase, we are suspending Fellowship Hour for the month of September. We will re-visit this topic at the September Church Council meeting on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> to assess the data available at that time.

## *An update from the Trustees.*

The new window installation project has been completed. We hope that you are as pleased as the Trustees are with the outcome. We are sure many of you have seen the new double paned windows on the south side of the church and the northside of the Fellowship Hall that were installed.

A special thanks to all those who helped with the window project. We would also like to thank those who made a special donation to this project.

Keeping our building up to date and efficient is one of the major tasks of the Trustees, your help in doing this is appreciated.

*Trustees*

## *Office will be closed*

**Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day**, the church office will be closed.

## *Diaconate Board meeting*

Diaconate Board *will still meet* on **Labor Day, Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

## *Choir Practices Begin Again*

Bell and Chancel Choirs will resume practices on **Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Bell Choir will

meet at **6pm** and Chancel Choir will meet at **7pm**.

## *Rally Day and the Return to regular worship schedule*

**Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** marks the beginning of our Fall through Spring schedule and a new Sunday school year.

**10 a.m.** Sunday School for children and adults

**11 a.m.** *Worship with Communion* with the usual COVID protocols in place.

We will *not* be having our Rally Day Picnic this year.

## *For the Women of the Church*

### *Women's Fellowship*

Watch the bulletin and *In the Loop* for time and date for September's Women's Fellowship.

### *Women's Bible Study*

Women's Bible Study will participate in the book study discussion group taking place Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. beginning Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto:churchinfo@mhfccucc.org).

### *Craft Days*

Watch the bulletin and *In the Loop* for time and dates for Craft Days.

### *It's nomination time*

Have you considered being on one of the boards or committees that help keep our church running smoothly? Did you put on your Time and Talent card for 2021 that you would like to serve on a board or committee? Now's your chance! If you are interested in serving on one of the boards or committees, please contact the church office at 587-4969.

## Bulletin Sponsors for 2022

It is time to start signing up to sponsor a worship bulletin for 2022. The sign-up sheet will be on the back table in the sanctuary starting the third Sunday of September, **September 19<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

## Flowers for October– or any month

If you would like to provide or set out flowers on the altar for October (or any other month), check the sign-up sheet at the back of the Sanctuary or contact the church office to pick your Sunday

And, don't forget, you may donate money for flowers if you don't wish to do the actual arranging or purchasing. The suggested donation for altar flowers is \$25 - \$30 dollars. The money will be used by one of our very talented volunteers to purchase flowers, do the arranging of them and placing them on the altar. Your name will go in the bulletin as the donor of the flowers.

Sign up now for your favorite Sunday!

## Do you have spare greeting cards?

Our card-sending elves could use some more birthday cards, Thinking of You Cards, or any other greeting cards you might have extra of. Just drop them by the church office and they will get where they need to go. Thank you!!!

## A Note from Sylvia and Fred Sisneros

“Dear Church, July 20, 2021

I hear that everything is going well with our church. I think God for that and all of you, Hands of God, that have made it possible. Keep it up. I met our Pastor Paul and I think he's great. I look forward to the bulletin that I receive every week thanks to Jen, that sees to that.

Pastor's sermons are very interesting and sure helps me to move forward. Praise God.

*Love in Christ,  
Sylvia and Fred Sisneros*

## The Pastoral Relations Committee

We are pleased to announce the members of the Pastoral Relations Committee: Todd Paille, Gail Banner, Grace Townsend, and Lee Wright.

The Pastoral Relations Committee works hard to improve the communication, interpretation and understanding between the congregation and the pastor. They define areas of potential conflict that need to be addressed before the conflicts become a more serious issue. To fully implement conflict management, the Pastoral Relations Committee works within an atmosphere of confidentiality, while communicating open and honest feelings of church members to the Pastor.

The Pastoral Relations Committee also gives the Pastor an avenue to reflect his concerns, hopes, ambitions and frustrations. This allows the Pastoral Relations Committee the opportunity to help the congregation understand the expectations and priorities of the Pastor.

The Pastoral Relation Committee is not a legislative body. They do not make policy or vote on behalf of the church. Their sole responsibility is to support and maintain an open relationship between the Pastor, the church staff, and members of the congregation.

If you have a suggestion, problem, complaint, grievance, criticism or *compliments and praises*, please feel free to contact the Pastoral Relations Committee. They are here to foster two-way communication to enhance relationships within the church.

## Thank you

### *Summer Music*

Lots of variety this summer for special music.

On June 6 and 27 and July 25 and August 22, we were treated to Special Anthems by the Bell Choir

On June 13 and July 18, Joseph Armstrong delighted the congregation with song while accompanied by Dorraine Aggen.

On July 4 Al Foster did a reading of “The Grand Ol’ Flag” with Dorraine Aggen playing background accompaniment.

August 8<sup>th</sup> brought the congregation the quartet of Mike Keas, Andrew Ames, Dorraine Aggen, and Jennifer Dillenbeck singing an awesome version of “This Little Light of Mine”.

There were numerous surprise musical treats by Jennifer Dillenbeck on her violin accompanied by Dorraine Aggen on the piano.

Thank you, everyone, for sharing your talents and making a joyful melody to the Lord!!

### *Office help*

Sun and Sand and Salt. This could not have happened without the selfless dedication of Gail Banner, Chris Paille, Vickie Armstrong, and Beth DeVore. These wonderful ladies took time out of their days to be in the office while I went on vacation to visit my brother in North Florida. The trip was amazing and the help was awesome. Thank you a hundred times over

*Jennifer Andersen*  
*Church Secretary*

### *Eddie Bush*

Once a week, every week, you'll see him out there, mowing the lawn. Every once-in-a-while you'll see him working on the sprinkler system. And, as if that wasn't enough, Eddie took it upon himself to paint all the trim – inside and out! – on the new windows that were installed this summer.

Thank you, Eddie, for all that you do for the Church.

### *Outdoor Bell Concert*

On Saturday, July 31, the Bell Choir performed their very first outdoor concert at the Hub Plaza. It was a rather windy affair, but thanks to our clothes pins, our music remained firmly attached. We had 2 separate choirs consisting of 4 handbell ringers each. Both choirs performed 3 pieces. In addition to the bells, there was a quartet consisting of Jennifer Dillenbeck, Dorraine Aggen, Andrew Ames, and Mike Keas. A violin solo was also performed by Jennifer Dillenbeck. The concert ended with all of the ringers playing their bells alongside the chimes of the Plaza. A great time was had by all. We even had 35 people in the audience.

I want to extend a big THANK-YOU to all the members for their hard work in getting this done.

*Mike Keas, Bell Director*

### *Wade Baumgardner*

Thank you, Wade, for giving a hand to Eddie by edging the church lawn and helping keep it neat and trim. Your time and dedication is much appreciated.

### *Card Donations*

Thank you to all the generous people who donated greeting cards to our card-sending elves. The outpouring has been most appreciated.

*And, Card-Elves* – thank YOU for your hard work and dedication to sending out heartfelt cards to the church family for all the Joys and Trials that come our way. You know who you are.

### *Kitty Singleton*

Upon her departure from this area to take a new job in St. Louis, Missouri, Kitty did not forget her church family.

Thank you, Kitty, for the donation of a case of printer paper so ravenously consumed in the office, as well as poster board for use by whoever needs it and other paper products which may prove useful in the kitchen. Thank you and best wishes on your new adventure.

### *The Board of Trustees*

Yeah, it's their job. But they do it so well!!!! Thank you, Board of Trustees – Linda Ramsey, Todd Paille, Billy Roeder, Mike Keas and Judy Case with Eddie Bush, Frank Marsh and Pastor Paul as ex-officio – for all the work y'all put in to decide how best to care for and upgrade the church building and property, as well as the best way to handle our donations and investments. Without this dedication and expertise, we could have some serious problems.

Thank you for all your time, talent, and headaches.

### *Upcoming Events*

#### *Neighbors in Need*

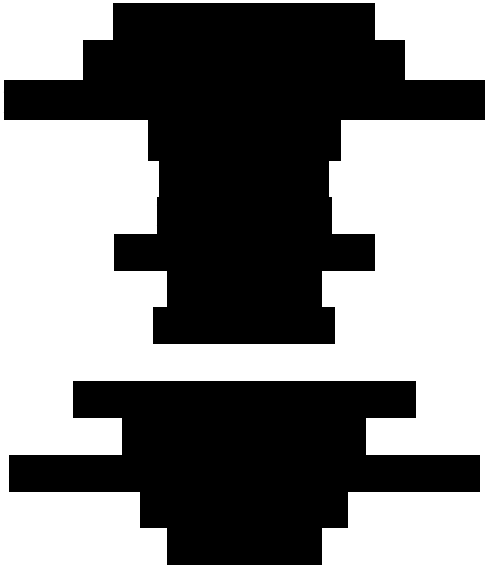
On **Sunday, October 3rd**, we will take up our 2021 *Neighbors in Need* offering. Go to [www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin) for all the details on what this offering does for our Neighbors in Need.

### *Church Directory 2021*

The Church Directory for 2021 has been printed. They are ready for pick up from the church office or the bulletin table at the back of the Sanctuary.

### *Directory Updates*





## From Pastor Paul

Hey Friends, I know I've shared this before, but it's fresh in my head so I'm sharing it again: as part of my weekly walk in faith one of my lenses of interpretation is "Yes/No"... meaning that I try, in every act of discernment, to turn any "no" into a "yes"... for example: *Geesh, I've been eating a lot of junky food recently since my son has been in town and my body is really feeling lazy.* Well, yeah, nothing good comes from a statement like that. So I shift it to a "Yes" by saying: *I want to climb and play and walk and run and swim! I'm looking forward to getting stronger and more confident to respond to my whims and wills!*

"Yes" goes a long way. I recently heard another pastor say (paraphrased): *When you dance, it doesn't matter how well you dance, it matters that you are having a good time.*

*...having a good time... which is to say: "yes".*

This works with church, too. In the midst of programs and worship and ministry, an important question is whether we're hearing the "yes" of God's call. The "yes" to the presence of Jesus. As churches, as in life, we're pretty good at focusing on the negative. *It's good now, but it might get worse. There's a lot of hard work to appease the demands of the people.* Or (my favorite): *we've never done it that way before!* And to all that I say *Enough! Turn our "no's" into "yesses"!* *It's like I preached a few weeks ago... a new addition to my "Greatest Hits of Bible verses" John 6:43.* In church, as in life, I'm turning my "no" to a "yes".

So here's it is:

I'm looking forward...to the Spirit in worship continuing to grow.

I'm looking forward to the many ways we share with one another our weekly walk—the presence of the Spirit within us.

I'm looking forward to the creative energy of music—choral and bells and who knows what's else!

I'm looking forward to book groups and Bible studies and simple times of fellowship and friendship where we smile and laugh and see one another.

I'm looking forward to faith in action (I guess it's called ministry).

I'm looking forward to Jesus, amongst and around and within and empowering us.

I'm looking forward to things that I never imagined a church would feel called to do, but when all is said and done, made complete and total sense as a way to honor him.

I'm looking forward to Rally Sunday...

Keep in touch, Friends,

Pastor Paul

### In Loving Memory

*James Paul Loewen  
October 5, 1932 – August 1, 2021*

### September Birthdays

1 – Heidi Harris	16 – Sally Henderson
3 – Anne Parker	16 – Johnny A. Willis
8 – Nancy Martin	19 – Beth DeVore
12 – Devin Osgood	20 – Thornton Osgood
14 – Alvaree Venski	27 – Jennifer Andersen
15 – Carrie Roeder	27 – Benjamin Parker
28 – Hunter Dillenbeck	

### September Anniversaries

12	Susan and Gene Mussler
14	Rose and Lawrence Pearsall

### Special Angels for September

#### LITURGISTS (Diane Venski)

5 – Betty Ashcraft  
12 – Polly Sanders  
19 – Heidi Harris  
26 – Rita Olson

#### GREETERS (none)

#### FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Not for September)

#### USHERS (Diane Venski)

#### FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

5 – Gail Banner  
12 – Helena DeWeerd  
19 – Anita Christianson  
26 –

#### PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

#### COMMUNION (Ann Carlin)

# September 2021

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

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3 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	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 <b>maybe</b>	9 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
10 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	11 Columbus Day <b>Office closed</b> 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	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.)
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