

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org

November 2021

churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

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Fall Time Change

Sunday, November 7, 2021
Turn your clock **back** one hour

Worshiping together

Masks are not required for those that are **fully vaccinated**. Other physical distancing procedures will stay in place. *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.

Please do not come to worship if you are not feeling well.

Stewardship Letters

Watch your mail for the Stewardship 2022 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. *If you are a couple and would like an extra Time and Talent card so y'all can sign up for things separately, please contact the church office.*

3rd Quarter Donation Statements

Third quarter Donation Statements will be mailed around October 29th. Monetary donations are an important part of keeping our church fully functioning. Your Donation Statement includes your financial contributions from January 1, 2021 through/including October 10, 2021. 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! Craft Days in November will be held on **Friday, November 5th and 19th 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 2, 2021 is Election Day

Annual Budget and Election meeting

Budget and Election meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 14th, after worship**. Members nominated are listed below.

Officers, Board, and Committee

Members

Nominated for 2022

ONE YEAR OFFICE

Moderator: Mike Keas
Assistant Moderator: Polly Sanders
Historian Kelli Collett
All other officers are the same as last year

THREE YEAR TERMS

Diaconate Board:
Ann Carlin will be replaced by Sue Stanek
Tony Deal will be replaced by Curtis Carlin
Terry Lindquist's term will be completed by Jay Leonard
Allen Harris agreed to a second term
Heidi Harris agreed to a second term

Trustees:
Mike Keas will be replaced by Roger Fogleman
Linda Ramsey will be replaced by Mollie Marsh

Christian Education:
Susan Mussler will be replaced by Vickie Armstrong
Betty Ashcraft agreed to another term

ONE YEAR TERMS

Music Committee will remain the same

Social Committee:
Sherry Bush will be replaced by Kay Eilebrecht
Other replacements are possible at a later date.

Nominating Committee:
*Phil Miller, Nadine Roberts,
Susan Mussler, Rick Parks,
and Frank Marsh*

Editor's note: Thank you, Frank Marsh, for chairing this very important committee.

Christmas Program Practice

The Christmas Program is scheduled for Sunday, December 19th.

Practice will begin on **Sunday, November 28th** during Sunday School.

It's a Pie Sale!!

Due to continuing 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 6 – 17th. Pies may be picked up at the church on Sunday, November 21st 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-Strawberry, Pecan, Lemon Meringue, and Blueberry.

Minimum donation per pie is \$30. To order, fill out the form found in your worship bulletin or call Nadine Roberts at [REDACTED] or Nancy Sobien at [REDACTED]

If you do not need any pies, but would still like to help the Women's Fellowship fundraiser, donations are also most welcome.

Women of the Church

Women's Fellowship

The November Women's Fellowship meeting will be on **Friday, November 12th** either via ZOOM at 11 a.m. or in-person at 12 p.m. Which way it will be will be announced in the bulletin, *In the Loop*, and through email. Make sure the office has your email address!

Women's Bible Study

BOOK: The Screwtape Letters, by C.S. Lewis
Purchase your own book (including "Screwtape Proposes a Toast") OR

- pick one up on the back table after church (please donate \$10 to the collection)
- pick one up from the Church office (please donate \$10 to Jennifer).

Start Date: Thursday, **November 4, 2021**

Time: 10:30am

Location: Adult Sunday School room

Covid Precautions: Personal distancing, masks, and "please do not to attend if you are sick". (subject to change)

What to expect:

- We will meet about every 2 weeks covering 2-3 letters each meeting
 - I will be basing our discussions on The Screwtape Letters Study Guide by Alan Vermilye
 - Insights, quotes and bible verses you share
 - Relevance to your/our personal experiences and the present world stage
- Syllabus will be provided Nov. 4th
- If you have an opportunity, please read the Introduction and Letters 1 & 2 (only 10 pages) prior to Nov. 4th. If you haven't read them please come anyway! This meeting will encourage you to begin reading this masterful work.

Samaritan's purse

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 this month. Watch for the list of items needed.

Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar

As with all things 2021 – the Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar is going to look quite different than normal again this year. The Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar will look like it did last year.

The Inventory – If you have crafted things for this year's Bazaar, **please bring them to the church by November 21st**. 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 1st at 10:00 a.m. and runs through December 8th at 8:00 p.m.** 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.

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

The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will not happen again this year.

The Pledge Blessing service will be part of the 11 a.m. regular Worship service on Sunday, November 21. If you will not be attending, please 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!**

Hanging of the Greens

On **Saturday, November 27th**, at 10 a.m. we will begin decorating the church for the coming Christmas season. Anyone who wishes to come help the Diaconate Board set up the Christmas Trees and hang the wreaths and garland is more than welcome to join in the fun.

Beginning **Sunday, December 5th** 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 **Monday, December 20th**. Forms will be available on the back table beginning **Sunday, November 28th**.

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 3rd. Our generous collection for our neighbors was \$245. Thank you for spreading your generosity far and wide.

Pew Pockets

Thank you to Lori Levis for coming in each week and checking the pew pockets to be sure that the pencils are ready for use and the prayer cards, visitor cards, and offering envelopes are available. This is such a time saver for the office and the Diaconate Board and a gift to the church family as they worship.

Thank you, Lori, for the offering of your time.

Nominating Committee

A big shout out to the nominating committee (Phil Miller, Nadine Roberts, Susan Mussler, Rick Parks, and Frank Marsh)! They have completed their task of finding nominees for church officers and board members, which will be noted in the Proclamation and at our annual meeting in November. Thank you to all new and present church officers and board members for their dedication to keeping our church running smoothly. We appreciate you all!

*Frank Marsh
Chairman
Nominating Committee*

Thank you, Frank

Thank you, Frank Marsh, for helping stuff envelopes for the Stewardship letter. Your help was definitely needed and appreciated.

From St. Luke's Elmore – a second time

Dear First Congregational Church Members,

Your gift of 100 subs was so appreciated! The past 18 months with COVID has been difficult and the subs were a bright light in the day. Thank you so much for thinking of us. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

*Kind Regards,
St. Luke's Elmore"*

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 depending on the COVID spread. Keep yourselves safe!

All Boards and Committees

Year-end Annual Reports are due in the office by **Wednesday, January 5th**, earlier if possible, so they can be prepared for distribution at our Annual Meeting on **Sunday, January 16th**.

Giving Tree

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, the Giving Tree program has temporarily changed. Like last year, 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. 3rd 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.

Birthdays in November

2 – Alexis Parks	8 – Cara Grindle
2 – Samantha Pearsall	15 – Allen Harris
4 – Joe B McNeal	19 – Mike Keas
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)

7 – Rick Parks
14 – Grace Townsend
21 – Betty Ashcraft
28 – Mollie Marsh

GREETERS (Diaconate Board)

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Not yet)

USHERS (Ann Carlin)

FLOWERS (Lee Wright and Sherry Bush)

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Sandy O'Connell)

From Pastor Paul

Strange to look toward Advent with clear blue skies and the grass still green. But that's what I'm doing, I'm looking toward November in the church, and November means Advent.

...And not a moment too soon, here as I sit in my COVID quarantine, alternating between fatigue and restlessness. Here as I've had time to catch up with the news—as I listen to and read about so many tight-fists of anger and judgment and fear. There is no shortage of things around us that can render any of our spirits flat and dull with resignation and apathy.

Yes. Our world needs Advent. Our church needs Advent. We are in great need of this season of our faith that reminds us of who we are, and why we are. A reminder that we were taught that there is a better way. A reminder that God does, indeed, love us and want us to thrive. A reminder that the world can, and will, find harmony, no matter how loud the voices of negativity and judgment.

Here's how I see it, Church Friends: Advent is our time to shine. We prepare ourselves for the good that is to come. We prepare ourselves for a light in the darkness. It is our good and holy work. It is the practice of our faith. It is who we are.

Put another way: if we can't do it, then who can? We, who literally base our faith on the "Good News" that Jesus taught us. We who have been guided and are reminded, over and over, that there is, indeed, a better way. Yes, Advent is our time to shine.

I can't solve the problems in the world. I can't end the pandemic nor bring cultural harmony. I can't put an end to fear and judgment nor stop the resignation and apathy so pervasive within and around us.

But I can turn myself toward the light in the midst of the darkness, and I can live my life (and orient my actions) centered on that hope, just like my Christ taught me to. It begins with my choices, one by one, to say "yes" in a world of "no's", to let the negativity and apathy blow past like so many fall winds. To endure this season of our lives like so many have before me, with my senses turned to the presence of Christ within and all around me. To know that even though the world seems angry, I don't have to be. Even though the world seems critical, I don't have to be. Even though the world seems full of despair...not me...Christ taught me there is a better way.

So I invite you, to live into that hope this season. It is ours to embrace. Ours to claim.

After all, if we don't do it, who will?

*In God's Light,
Pastor Paul*

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 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Voting	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 1 p.m. Craft Day	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 Pie Sale begins	10 7 p.m. Book Study	Veterans Day 11 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 Pie Sale ends	18 9 a.m. Breakfast at the Manhattan 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel 7 p.m. Troop 19	19 1 p.m. Craft Day	20 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
21 10 Sun. School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Pledge Blessing Service Pies ready for pickup	22 7 Church Council	23 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	24	25 Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed	26	27 10 a.m. Hanging of the Greens 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
<i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 28 10 a.m. Sunday School w/ play practice 11 a.m. Worship	29 7 Troop/Crew 57	30 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion				

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7 p.m. Book Study 10 a.m. Virtual Christmas Bazaar begins	2 9 a.m. Breakfast at the Manhattan 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel 7 p.m. Troop 19	3 10 a.m. Quilters	4 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 5 10 a.m. Sunday School w/ play practice 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	6 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 Troop/Crew 57	7 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	8 7 p.m. Book Study 8 p.m. Virtual Christmas Bazaar ends	9 9 a.m. Breakfast at the Manhattan 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel 7 p.m. Troop 19	10 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship	11 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 12 10 a.m. Sunday School w/ play practice 11 a.m. Worship	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	18 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 19 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Christmas Program	20	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	24 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas 6 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)?
26 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	27 7 Church Council	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	31 New Year's Eve	