

# Mountain Proclamations

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

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

February 2022

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

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## Modified Fellowship Hour

We have started a modified Fellowship Hour. There will not be refreshments, such as cookies and coffee or juice, but there will be the refreshment of time spent together.

The Fellowship Hall will be opened up for after-worship visiting, giving us all more room to spread out for health protection. Some chairs and tables will be set up for those who prefer not to stand long.

At the February Church Council meeting, we will visit the possibility of adding food and drink, depending on health concerns.

## Boy Scout Sunday

Please welcome the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venture Crews on **Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>** as they celebrate Scout Sunday with us.

All scouts are welcome to attend no matter which troop, pack, or crew you belong to. Please observe COVID protocols.

## Donation Records 2021

End of year Giving Statements for 2021 will be mailed along with this newsletter – the last week of January. If you have any questions about your statement, please call the Financial Recording Secretary, Frank Marsh, at [REDACTED]

## Women of the Church

### *Flowers*

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If you would like to provide Altar Flowers for any Sunday in 2022, please take your pick from the open Sundays on sign-up sheet on the bulletin table or contact the church office to sign-up.

Also, if you don't do flower arrangements, but would still like to sponsor flowers, for a donation of \$25 - \$30, the Women's Fellowship will provide an arrangement for the altar in your name. If you are writing a check, please make it out to First Congregational Women's Fellowship and note that it is for flowers and the date you are sponsoring.

## *Women's Fellowship*

Women's Fellowship will hold their February potluck luncheon /meeting on **Friday the 11th at noon**. Hostesses are Gail Banner, Frankie Guerre and Barrie Eskridge. Guest speaker will be Bill Heitman from St. Luke's Elmore Foundation.

All women are invited to attend. Please contact Nancy Sobien if you have questions.

### *Bible Study*

BOOK: The Screwtape Letters, by C.S. Lewis  
Dates: Thursday, **February 10 and 24**  
Time: 10:30am  
Location: Adult Sunday School room  
COVID Precautions: Personal distancing, masks, and "please do not to attend if you are sick".

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](mailto:churchinfo@mhfccucc.org)

All women of the church are invited to attend.

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Black History Banquet

The Mountain Home Community Black History Committee feels that due to the corona virus still being in high numbers, for the safety of our community, we will not have our formal February celebration for Black History Month, and our 32nd Annual Black History Anniversary Banquet in 2022.

We all still can take time to remember, celebrate, and learn by researching and reading about the 2022 Black History theme: "Black Health and Wellness," that explores "the legacy of black doctors, scholars, and medical practitioners, as the theme considers activities, rituals and initiatives that black communities have done to be well."

We give a shout out to the medical staff, first responders, and all who are helping to make our community a safer and healthier place to "live, work, and play."

Also, the Mtn. Home Library and Historical Museum will have a display of black history and books to read.

With all of us working together, “we shall overcome.”

*The Mountain Home Community Black History Committee*

### **Black History Sunday**

We, as a church, will celebrate Black History Sunday on **Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>** at the 11 a.m. service.

### **Presidents’ Day**

The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>** in recognition of Presidents’ Day.

### **From the Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees would like to thank the congregation for your confidence in selecting us to serve. We also thank you for the support you have given the church. We are here for you, so if you have any questions or concerns please let us know. You can talk to any trustee member after church services or give a note to Jennifer Andersen in the church office and she will get the information to us. Thank you.

Trustees for 2022:

Roger Fogleman  
Judy Case  
Mollie Marsh  
Gene Mussler  
Billy Roeder  
Richard Broemling

### **Time and Talent**

The flow of Time and Talent cards back to the church has been getting smaller each year. This means that fewer and fewer people are being called upon to do more and more. As a church family, we all need to carry some of the ministry to keep the church vibrant and serving.

If you simply overlooked sending your card back, please do so soon or pick up a new card from the office or back table in the Sanctuary.

If you think you have nothing to offer, trust me, you do. Everyone has a gift; sometimes we just need a little help taking the wrapping off.

## **Thank You**

### *The First Friday Quilters*

It’s beautiful and will make a nice addition to our Fellowship Hall décor.

Thank you, First Friday Quilters for the quilted wall hanging and monetary donation given to the church for Christmas. As soon as we find the perfect place to hang it, it will be out for all the folks to see and enjoy.

Again, thank you so much for sharing your creative talents with us. What a blessing.

### *The Annual Report*

I would like to thank everyone who had the responsibility of getting your committee or board’s annual report to the office in a timely manner so that it could be compiled into the 2021 Annual Report for the 2022 Annual Meeting. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated.

*Jennifer Andersen,  
Church Secretary*

### *Red Cross Blood Drive Volunteers*

A shout out to Linda Ramsey, Joyce Allgood, Skip and Nancy Sobien for helping with the Red Cross Blood Drive on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Your help was much appreciated.

This Blood Drive would not have happened without the efforts of Rick Parks to set it up and coordinate all the pieces to make it work. Thank you, Rick.

And thank you to the Pizza Elf who bought lunch for the volunteers.

### *To Judy Case*

Thank you, Judy, for the donation of a large screen television to the church for use during video classes, ZOOM meetings and all manner of other technology uses. Your generosity is much appreciated.

### *Paper Donations!!*

Thank you to Betty Ashcraft and Person/s Unknown for the donations of printer paper to the church left on the office desk Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. These types of donations are most helpful. Thank you!!!

## GriefShare

GriefShare is a national program with many on-line and in-person resources to help process and grow through grief.

There is currently a GriefShare class being conducted at the Church of the Nazarene, 950 N 7<sup>th</sup> East, on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Jones Center (small building across the parking lot from the church). New attendees are always welcome. There is a workbook available for \$20.

## Upcoming Events

### *Lent*

#### *Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper*

We are in discernment about the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, whether to have it or not, due to COVID concerns.

Shrove Tuesday is on Tuesday, March 1. Whatever is decided will be announced in the bulletin, the *In the Loop* and the website.

#### *Ash Wednesday*

Ash Wednesday worship will be **Wednesday, March 2, at 7 p.m.** in our Sanctuary.

#### *Wednesday Lenten meditations*

Beginning on **Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**, we will have our traditional Wednesday Lenten Meditation at 7 p.m. No potluck is planned at the time. The study material will be announced by mid-February.

#### *One Great Hour of Sharing*

The One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten offering will begin Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Offering will be taken on **Palm Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**.

#### *The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering*

The Annual Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering will also begin **Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>** and will conclude on **Palm Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**.

This very different, and oddly named, offering accomplishes a wonderful and not often thought of service for the disadvantaged in our community. Any time during Lent, bring in *new* packages of *any* type of undergarments - socks, underwear, t-shirts, foundation garments - for any age group or gender. When all the offerings are collected, they will be taken to El-Ada for distribution to the disadvantaged in our area.

## *Pilgrim Cove Camp*

Below is a list of 2022 camping programs and opportunities to serve. For more information or questions, please call or email Jeremy Force, Camp Manager at (208)634-555. Email: [manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org](mailto:manager@pilgrimcovecamp.org).

We look forward to seeing many of you at one or more programs in 2022.

**Idaho Association Meeting**, April 22 – 23, 2022, all members, cost TBA

**Spring Work Weekend**, May 20 – 22, 2022, anyone, cost – FREE

**Summer Youth Camp**, July 10 – 15, 2022, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, cost - \$275

**Family Camp**, July 29 – August 1, 2022, anyone, cost – TBA

**Women's Retreat**, August 9 – 11, 2022, adult women, cost – TBA

**Grandparent's Camp**, September 9 – 11, 2022, Grandparent/grandchild, cost – TBA

**Fall Work Weekend**, October 14 – 16, 2022, anyone, cost – FREE

Note: Scholarships are available from the church for the Youth Camp.

## In Loving Memory

*Marcie Hamada*

*February 21, 1922 – January 10, 2022*

*Fred Sisneros*

*November 22, 1932 – January 12, 2022*

## Our Condolences

*To Mike and Alice Keas  
on the loss of his mother  
Helen Frances Fowler*

## Birthdays in February

3 Julianne Mori	17 Sam Hooley
5 Jo Gridley	18 Betty Ashcraft
7 Joshua Roeder	18 Betty Parks
10 Lawrence Pearsall	19 Eddie Bush
10 Janet Weise	19 Chris Paille
11 Susan Mussler	21 Dena Olson
12 Merrilee Hiler	21 Elizabeth Parks
12 Alice Keas	23 Lars Hansen
14 Jim Blanksma	24 Nadine Roberts
	25 Sue Baumgardner

## Anniversaries in February

- 10 Terry and Cindy Lindquist
- 17 Jennifer & Ken Andersen
- 19 Rick and Mariah Parks

## Special Angels for February

### LITURGISTS (Rick Parks)

- 6 – Grace Townsend
- 13 – Phil Miller
- 20 – Mildred McNeal
- 27 – Polly Sander

### GREETERS (Diaconate Board)

### USHERS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

### FLOWERS (Sign-Up Sheet)

- 6 – Maurie and Grace Townsend
- 13 – Frankie Guerre
- 20 – Maurie and Grace Townsend
- 27 – Gail Banner

### PARAMENTS (Heidi and Allen Harris)

### COMMUNION (Sandy O’Connell)

## From Pastor Paul

One of the things that makes me sad about congregational dynamics is the way that specific groups form in the church. The old and the young, the long-term locals and the new transplants, the blue and the red, on and on and on. It happens in every church, and every time, a pastor looks upon it with regret.

This is exaggerated in this time of COVID. Take a moment and think of this time without fellowship... whom do you talk to at church? Chances are, for most of us, it is the same three or four people. It’s fine that we have these connections; after all, people of common life are great to connect with. But the problem of interacting with only a small group of people in the church is the same one our country faces as we increasingly interact with isolated groups of similar interests: in doing so, we arrive at alternate realities of life. When we feed from a small group of like-minded people, without dissention or diversity, we become misinformed, out of context, radical, loopy.

Welcome to the United States, 2022. You’re right. And I’m right. And (darn it!) we know we are right!

But here’s a story that I heard from a pastor friend of mine (a story that I’ve been meaning to add to a sermon for about...three weeks now, so I thought I’d share here). I think it applies to all

of us, no matter what side of “right” we stand with so sanctimoniously.

My pastor friend told me this:

*I’ve served two churches, each for over ten years, but looking back, I realize in both of them, the long-term members, at ten years, said the same thing: “What happened?”*

*The first time I heard this, it was in an aging congregation, growing weary of service, and those folks looked around and realized that there was nobody to take their place. “What happened,” they asked?*

*The second time I heard this, the older generation was also growing weary of service, but they looked around and realized that amongst their congregation, interspersed with those that they had grown up with, the other half were people that had arrived in recent years—the ministries were bustling, and in some ways unique and different. There were people to whom they could pass the reins, no matter how the ministry seemed different than what they were used to. “What happened?” they asked. It was all so new.*

*“What happened?” The story is ours to create.*

I write this in the season of Epiphany. Soon we will be entering Lent. In Lent, Christians contemplate and pray upon what they may give up (or shed...yes, shed is a better word) so that they may become closer to Christ. You have a month to walk with God on this one, but if you’re spirit is still running dry, consider this option:

Shed the notion that all you are is all you will ever be. Shake off the labels you’ve worn (with an oft-resigned acceptance) as “your fate” or “your lot in life.” Tell the roles you play in life, the work you do, the responsibilities you have, that “you are part of my life, but you don’t define the whole me.” Empty yourself of those hard and crusty definitions of yourself. Step out of your entrenched life.

Then turn to God, and ask: “ok then, who am I?”

Then take Jesus’s hand, and let him guide you.

I look forward to hearing you say: “What happened?”

*Keep in touch,  
Pastor Paul*

# February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	2 7 p.m. Book Study	3 9 a.m. Breakfast 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir I 7 p.m. Troop 19	4 10 a.m. Quilters	5 7 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
<b>Scout Sunday</b> 6 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	7 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 Troop/Crew 57	8 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	9 7 p.m. Book Study	10 9 a.m. Breakfast 1030 – Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	11 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship	12 7 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
13 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	14 Valentine's Day 6:30 Trustees 7 Troop/Crew 57	15 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	16 7 p.m. Book Study	17 9 a.m. Breakfast 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	18	19 7 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
<b>Black History</b> 20 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship After Worship – Christian Ed mtg.	21 President's Day <b>Office closed</b>	22 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion <b>7 Church Council</b>	23 7 p.m. Book Study	24 9 a.m. Breakfast 1030 – Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	25	26 7 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
27 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	28 7 Troop/Crew 57					

# March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>Shrove Tuesday</b> 1 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Group	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> 2 Worship TBA	3 9 a.m. Breakfast 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	4 10 a.m. Quilters	5 7 – 9 MHAA
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</i> 6 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	7 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 Troop/Crew 57	8 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	9 7 p.m. Lenten Meditation	10 9 a.m. Breakfast 1030 – Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	11 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship	12 7 – 9 MHAA
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</i> 13 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	14 6:30 Trustees 7 Troop/Crew 57	15 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	16 7 p.m. Lenten Meditation	17 St. Patrick's Day 9 a.m. Breakfast 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	18	19 7 – 9 MHAA
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</i> 20 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship After Worship – Christian Ed mtg.	SPRING 21	BREAK 22 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion <b>7 p.m. Church Council</b>	-----23 7 p.m. Lenten Meditation	-----24 9 a.m. Breakfast 1030 – Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	-----25	26 7 – 9 MHAA
<i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</i> 27 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	28 7 Troop/Crew 57	29 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	30 7 p.m. Lenten Meditation	31 9 a.m. Breakfast 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19		