

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org **January 2022** churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Volume 55- Issue 1

These Days

The *These Days* Devotional booklets have arrived! 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.

All Boards and Committees

Year-end 2021 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**.

Church Council has moved

The monthly meeting of the Church Council will be on the **fourth Tuesday** of the month for the duration of 2022.

Red Cross Blood Drive HERE!

Thursday, January 6th 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. we will be hosting a Blood Drive here at the church. This event is by appointment only, and we're looking to fill 32 slots for the day.

You can log onto <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> to either enroll into the system or to sign in and schedule a time if you are already registered. They even have an app for your Smartphone! Our Drive is also looking for a Volunteer or two to help with the checking in of the Donors as they arrive.

For more information, contact Rick Parks

Fellowship and Flowers

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

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship met on Dec. 10th for its annual Christmas meeting/wrap up/party! Twenty-two ladies were in attendance. Festive decorations and delicious goodie bags were provided by the hostesses: Linda Ramsey, Sherry Bush and Bobbi Bergh.

Following a brief ice-breaker question and meeting an installation of officers was held. New officers for the 2022 year are President Nancy Sobien, Vice-President Gail Banner, Secretary Betty Celaya, and Treasurer Linda Ramsey. Longtime, outgoing Vice-President, Nadine Roberts, was honored with a thank you gift and our gratitude and thanks for many, many years of leadership.

The event ended with a fun game to exchange gifts.

The first meeting of the new year will be a pot-luck luncheon/meeting on Friday, January 14, 12:00 p.m. This is open to all women of the community. Please bring your ideas for the upcoming year!

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

Women's Bible Study

BOOK: The Screwtape Letters, by C.S. Lewis
Dates: Thursday, **January 13 and 27**
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

All women of the church are invited to attend.

2022 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for 2022 will be on **Sunday, January 16th**, immediately after worship.

This is an important meeting as we will vote on our final budget for 2022. Please plan to attend so that we may have a quorum.

2021 MLK 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 2022. Prayerfully, we will return in January 2023. We are asking that on **January 17, 2022**, the day Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., holiday is observed, marking the 27th 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 2020-2021 has presented us with, there is still so much to be thankful for. We'd even argue one of the greatest gifts these challenging years 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 2020-2021 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

Office Closed January 17

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the church office will be closed on **Monday, January 17th**.

Christian Ed meetings

The next Christian Ed meeting will be in February.

Thank You

From Joe and Mildred McNeal

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)

Pastor Paul and our Church Family in Faith!

Joe B., Mildred McNeal, and our entire Family would like to thank Pastor Paul, and our First Congregational Church family, for all of your

condolences, expressions of sympathy, and thoughtfulness during our time of loss of our only son, Joseph Benjamin McNeal IV (on November 11, 2021), and Mildred's sister – Rebecca Debman from North Carolina (on November 4, 2021).

We as a family are deeply grateful and appreciated all of your kindness in words, cards, flowers, donations in honor of our son, Joseph; shared memories, prayers, love, and being with us during this difficult time. It's a great comfort to our family, and will always be remembered. 'May God bless you with blessings from heaven above.' (Genesis 49:25)

Please continue your prayers as we find healing in God's tender embrace, as we move forward as a family.

*Love you all with the love of Christ,
Joe, B., Mildred McNeal, and the entire Family!"*

To the Diaconate Board

Thank you to all the members of the Diaconate Board for their 2021 service.

*Sincerely,
Ann Carlin, Chair*

To Nadine Roberts

THANK YOU to Nadine Roberts for her many years of service to the Women's Fellowship group as its Vice-President! She was a perfect example of being a leader and a helper. Her creativity in flowers, decorating and table settings was so appreciated...and still will be. Thank you so very much to our dear member and friend, Nadine!

Nancy Sobien

Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar 2021

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. Unfortunately, we again had to do a virtual sale. 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.

Although not up to prior COVID standards, our sale did quite well, thanks in part to some big-ticket items on the silent auction. We made just over \$2,000.

A special thanks to Kelli Collett for making such a beautiful quilt for us to auction off.

The income earned will help us continue our goal of supporting the Church's programs and needs.

*Thanks for your support
Women's Fellowship*

Giving Tree 2021 THANK YOU!!!!

I started working with the Giving Tree Program through the Chamber of Commerce here in Mountain Home in 2005, and in the years since our church has helped many, many children to have a great Christmas. Curtis and I are blessed to be members of such a caring, giving, and loving church. May God continue to bless each & every one of you.

Now on to the business at hand. I would like to take this time to thank EVERY PERSON who took a tag or two for the Giving Tree Program this year. We were able to help 20 children to have an awesome Christmas. It means the world to me to be able to make Christmas wonderful for all these children. I would also like to take the time to thank the ladies of Epsilon Sigma Alpha for helping 8 more children to have a great Christmas as well. So, in total we were able to help 28 children to have an awesome Christmas. My heart is full because of all of you that selflessly gave to such a worthy cause. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

*Warmest Regards,
Ann Carlin*

Thank you for the Cards!

As we continue into another year, let us be thankful for our many blessings. We are so thankful for all of the greeting cards given to us to use to support others. We pray they have served the intended purpose. Please continue to let us know by calling Jennifer in the Church Office, talking to Pastor Paul or by sharing your concerns and celebrations during our church services.

These may be concerns and celebrations you have for yourselves or for others. **It takes a village of support to become a team.** Thank you again for supplying cards and giving of yourselves in this important part of our church's ministry.

The Card Elves

Christmas Cards

The Church received several Christmas cards from members and friends far and near. They will be taped to the office window 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, Sylvia Sisneros, Harold and Sally Henderson, Anita Christianson, and the National Church Office, Ramona Yrazabal; Nancy Martin, and Stephanie Loewen.

Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund is a very important fund to the United Church of Christ's retired pastors and families. This fund gives aid to them in time of extreme need and crisis. Your generous donations this year is \$783. Thank you so much for thinking of others, as you always do.

Board members

Thank you to all the board and committee members whose terms finished up in 2021. Your service and dedication to the church family is much appreciated.

To all those coming in for their first term in 2022, 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.

Christmas program

Deck the Halls and Trim the Tree was eloquently performed by the Sunday school class with the vocals of our harmonious chancel choir. Our cast was Allison Duty, Rachel Duty, Zoe Duty, Devin Osgood, Heather Osgood, and Hunter Dillenbeck. (Led down the aisle by the infamous elf, Vickie Armstrong.) Our Chancel Choir was led by the talented Jennifer Dillenbeck. Special thanks to the surprise appearance of Santa to give the kids their Christmas goodies and hear their requests.

Children ages 5-14 are always welcome to join Sunday school any Sunday at 10 AM. We study the Bible, sing songs, and do different activities. Sunday school resumes January 9.

Many thanks to the parents and grandparents who bring the kids.

*Betty Ashcraft and the Christian Ed Committee
Susan Mussler, Victoria Armstrong, and Marlene Osborn*

To Betty Ashcraft

For many years now, Betty Ashcraft has put together and directed the Christmas program for the Church family. Some, she's even written.

Thank you, Betty, for all your hard work and the sharing of your amazing talents. Christmas wouldn't be the same without your creativity.

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.

Directory Update

Katherine "Kitty" Singleton
[REDACTED]

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 |
| 7 Kevin "Osi" Osgood | 18 David Olson |
| 8 Josephine VanAntwerp | 21 Angelina Pearsall |
| 11 Richard Townsend | 23 Lee Kaufman |
| 14 Charles Olson | 30 Joseph Armstrong |
| 15 Susan Broemeling | 31 Heather Osgood |

Special Angels for January

LITURGISTS (Rick Parks)

- 2 – Betty Ashcraft
- 9 – Gail Banner
- 16 – Mike Keas
- 23 – Rita Olson
- 30 – Mollie Marsh

GREETERS (Diaconate Board)

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Not for January)

FLOWERS (Sign-up sheet)

- 2 – Gail Banner
- 9 – Nadine Roberts
- 16 – Nadine Roberts
- 23 – Nadine Roberts
- 30 – Nadine Roberts

USHERS (Lee Wright)

PARAMENTS (Allen Harris)

COMMUNION (Curtis Carlin)

From Pastor Paul

"No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in."

-O Little Town of Bethlehem (verse 3)

I've been told I keep a constant melody in my head...that when I am occupied with any mundane task, it is accompanied by the hum and mumble of a song. And though it may drive some folks that share my space a little batty at times, I kind of like the notion that I do this, because it reminds me of what I've heard my children do when occupied with exploration and play. I recall my daughter at the Atlantic Ocean, drawing in the wet sand at low tide with a stick she found. Could I hear the melody behind her humming? No. Just humming. But I knew when I heard it that all was well.

Then there are other times that I'm particularly struck by the choice of words some songwriter made. There's something to be said about that place where words and melody meet in the sweetest of ways. Sometimes, like in the quote above, I'm sharing a song in a service and read the words I'm singing as if for the first time.

No, really! I mean...hear that last line from verse three of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" again: *"where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in."* I'm reading those words this morning to say "even in the simplest of moments, if we are open to receiving, God will share." After all, I rejoice in feeling the presence of God in the rush and the spark of exciting moments—those "mountaintop experiences" as we call them, but the Christ that calls me to live my faith on a day-to-day level, in the midst of, say, chopping veggies or doing dishes or cleaning up the living room—you know—the times that I might be heard humming some random tune in the midst of the mundane—well, that's the one that really just rocks my world. Jesus is there. Jesus is in the everyday. All I need to do is to hear the melody he is singing to me, and sing along.

Book Study: Next Book! Beginning on January 5th at 7pm.

"A Sense of Wonder: The World's Best Writers on the Sacred, the Profane, & the Ordinary"
Please let the church know if you'd like us to purchase a copy for you.

Thursday Breakfast Group: Trying a new place in January! Beginning on January 6th, we'll meet at "The Apple Barrel Deli and Bakery" (344 N. 2nd Ave. East). Thursdays at 9am

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day 7 – 9 M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
2 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	3 7 p.m. Diaconate Board	4 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	5 7 p.m. Book Study	<i>Epiphany</i> 6 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Blood Drive 9 Breakfast NO Bells NO Choir 7 Troop 19	7 10 a.m. Quilters	8 7 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
9 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	10 6:30 Trustees 7 Troop/Crew 57	11 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	12 7 p.m. Book Study	13 9 a.m. Breakfast 1030 – Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel 7 p.m. Troop 19	14 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship	15 7 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
16 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship After worship – Annual Meeting	17 Martin Luther King Day Office closed	18 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion	19 7 p.m. Book Study	20 9 a.m. Breakfast 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel 7 p.m. Troop 19	21	22 7 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
23 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	24 7 Troop/Crew 57	25 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion 7 Church Council	26 7 p.m. Book Study	27 9 a.m. Breakfast 1030 – Women's Bible Study 6 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. Chancel 7 p.m. Troop 19	28	29 7 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
30 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	31 7 Troop/Crew 57					

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. Chancel 7 p.m. Troop 19	4 10 a.m. Quilters	5 7 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
6 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. Chancel 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. Chancel 7 p.m. Troop 19	18	19 7 – 9 p.m. M.H. Speakers (A.A.)
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27 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	28 7 Troop/Crew 57	10:30 a.m. Liturgical Discussion				