

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org **July/August 2022** churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Volume 55 - Issue 7

Belated Congratulations!!

*Cara Anais Grindle
graduated from
Mountain Home High School
on May 27, 2022*

LADY LIBERTY PICNIC

Women's Fellowship is hosting our annual church Lady Liberty Picnic on **July 10, 2022**. It will be held in the church's Fellowship Hall at **6:00 p.m.** and is open to all...friends, neighbors, family! Hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, condiments, beverages and paper goods will be supplied. All you need to do is show up with a dish to pass and your appetite!

We will all enjoy some good old fashioned fellowship, food and smiles!

Any questions, please contact Nancy Sobien.

Flowers for September – or any month

If you would like to provide or set out flowers on the altar for September (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 . . .

If You Can't Create, Donate!

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 \$30. 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! The sign-up sheet is on the table at the back of the Sanctuary or you may call or email the office to see if your favorite Sunday is available.

Summer Craft Days

Mark your calendar for **July 8th and 22nd** and **August 12th and 26th** for Craft Day. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at **1 p.m.** to work on crafts with friends, old and new, in the comfort of the Fellowship Hall – with air conditioning! **This is *not* a closed group, so bring a friend!** **The more that merrier!**

Help with the Rose Garden

We are looking for folks who would like to give about a half hour once a week to pull weeds in the Rose Garden. You probably won't have time to pull *ALL* the weeds, but every little bit helps. You don't have to sign-up, just show up at your convenience. If you aren't sure what to do or what needs to be done, check with Lee Wright, Linda Ramsey or Gail Banner

Summer Music

With the Chancel Choir taking their well-deserved summer break, it would be wonderful to have other musicians or singers add to our worship time by sharing their talents with us on any given Sunday during the summer.

If you or someone you know would like to share this talent with us, please the church office to let us know which Sunday you would like to do this.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship is taking a break for the summer.

We will meet again in the Fall. Watch the September newsletter, the bulletins, and the *In the Loop* for the date of our next potluck and meeting.

It's nomination time

Have you considered being on one of the boards or committees that help keep our church running smoothly? Now's your chance! If you are interested in serving on one of the boards or committees, please contact the church office at (208)587-4969 and we will give your name and number to the Nominating Committee and someone will contact you.

From the Search Committee

For the last month and a half, the Search Committee has been working on the church's profile.

It is now complete and will be forwarded to Central Pacific Conference for approval/verification. Once that is done, they will publish it to the United Church of Christ's public website. Once it's published there, any pastor looking for a church can review it and send us their profile/resume for us to review.

If you would like to review our church profile, there will be a link on our website (www.mhfirstcongregational.org) or see one of the members of the Search Committee for a copy.

Members of the Search Committee: Ken Andersen (Chair), Gail Banner (Vice), Mollie Marsh, Roger Fogleman, Polly Sanders, Kelli Collett, and Linda Ramsey.

Pastoral Relations Committee

While the last few weeks with Pastor Deral Schrom have been a real blessing, just a reminder that there is still a Pastoral Relations Committee available if needed. Committee members are Gail Banner, Phil Miller and Lee Wright. If you have any concerns, please relate them to one of us. I also told Pastor Deral that it works both ways, so behave yourselves, as he can express his concerns to us, too!

Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Cove Camp, McCall

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Women's Retreat is at Pilgrim Cove on beautiful Payette Lake, near McCall, Idaho. Please join us for the Women's Retreat on August 9th through the 11th.

We have lots of activities planned. There will be a Get to Know You Circle, sharing time, crafts, morning prayers and lots of singing! There will be a time for a foot or shoulder massage, Tai Chi and a nature walk. Also, Lake side activities, swimming, kayaking, canoeing and just sitting by the lake, enjoying the view.

Our guest speaker will be delightful Cynthia Brant.

It is a time to take a break from your busy schedule and have a spiritual upliftment and connection with other women. The theme this year is "Seeing God in Nature".

Cost \$90 – covers food and lodging.

The registration form is available from the church office. This form can be emailed to you, if necessary. ***Bring a friend to share this special time.***

A few scholarships are available.

Questions - contact:

Fay Morgan

Carol Stirling

Pilgrim Cove Camp

As always, your tax-deductible gifts are always welcome. Things are getting better, but it has still been a hard year. We are still hanging in there! Any financial contributions are quite helpful. Send your contributions to:

**Pilgrim Cove Camp
P.O. Box 867
McCall, ID 83638**

The Big Blue Bucket

Please do not forget the Big Blue Bucket while out shopping for your own household needs. Items most needed are personal hygiene items, second most needed are household cleaning items. These are items that cannot be gotten on the SNAP card. As always, thank you so much for helping those in need attain or maintain a higher degree of dignity.

Thank You!

Strengthen the Church

Through the generous donations of the church family \$235 was collected for the Strengthen the Church offering taken on Sunday, June 5th. Your generosity helps spread the healing words of Christ.

From the McNeals

To Pastor Deral, and the First Congregation Church Family!

Mildred and I would like to thank you for all the kind expressions in all of the cards, letters, phone calls, flowers, and prayers we received during this difficult time with the loss of my sister Cleo McNeal Robinson. Your kind and thoughtfulness are deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledge.

We sincerely treasure all of the support from our Church Family! Again, thank you!

Joe B. McNeal

From Linda Thomsen

I would like to extend thanks to the Church Family for all the cards, love, prayers and food I received after Orville passed away. The memorial service was held at the Idaho State Military Cemetery on Thursday, June 9th. Cassie and I went up on Father's Day to view the niche wall. The marble is not engraved yet, but in standing at the wall and looking and reading the names of those around him we learned that he's located close to Harold Henderson. Harold is the reason I'm a member of this church. Orville & I both loved him. He is the one that married the two of us. Couldn't help but smile. Thanks again for everything.

Vacation Bible School

Thank you to all the wonderful people who put in time and energy to make this year's Vacation Bible School a success.

Thank you to Betty Ashcraft for sharing her gift of enthusiasm and energy to get the whole thing started and running, beginning to end.

Thank you to the teachers, music providers, snack providers and just plain all around helpers – Judy Case, Vickie Armstrong, Susan Mussler, Marlene Osborn, Stephanie and Kevin Osgood, Ken Andersen, Nancy Sobien, Susan Stanek, Joyce Allgood, folks from Christian and Baptist Church. If any have not been listed, please know that your contribution is much appreciated. We are truly blessed by all of you.

Going away for the Summer?

You don't have to be out of the loop on what's happening in the church. Every Monday, the church website, www.mhfirstcongregational.org, is updated with upcoming events. Just pull up the website on your mobile device or laptop and stay in touch even while you are away. You can even watch the Sunday worship on YouTube by clicking on our link on the "Ministries and Worship Video" page or going to our YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4te-AbJS-hGeUS6c1cmVA/>

Also, please remember that expenses do continue throughout the summer. If you are going to be away for the summer and you don't want your pledge offering to fall behind, you can mail it directly to the office at:

First Congregational Church, UCC
ATTN: Frank Marsh
P. O. Box 659
Mountain Home, ID 83647

See Lee Wright If...

Do you need a wheel chair or a wheeled walker with hand brakes? Lee Wright says you can have the ones he has, just give him a call.

Rally Day

Rally Day will be the second Sunday of September, **September 11th**. This marks the beginning of our Sunday school program with **Sunday school at 10 a.m. and Worship with Communion at 11 a.m.**

At this point, we do not know what Rally Day will look like. Sunday School classes will follow the protocols of the public school system here in Mountain Home. Which protocols (facemasks, social distancing, etc.) will be used will be determined in August by the Christian Education Committee.

We are hoping to have the traditional barbecue potluck after worship.

Directory Update

Joshua Roeder



July Birthdays

- 1 – Vicki Eckenrod
- 5 – Dorraine Aggen
- 7 – John Hooley
- 8 – Terry Lindquist
- 10 – Johanna Mori
- 12 – Ken Andersen
- 13 – Roger Banner
- 13 – Judy Case
- 17 – Paul VanAntwerp
- 19 – Stephanie LaClair
- 21 – Kelli Collett
- 23 – Carl Case
- 23 – Chris Albright
- 26 – CD Houston
- 28 – Ann Carlin

July Anniversaries

- 10 – Nancy & Skip Sobien
- 11 – Betty and Pedro Celaya

Special Angels for July

LITURGISTS (Rick Parks)

- 3 – Christine Negri
- 10 – Vickie Armstrong
- 17 – Rick Parks
- 24 – Susan Walker
- 31 – Mildred McNeal

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (sign-up sheet)

- 3 – Lori Levis and Susan Walker
- 10 – The Osgoods
- 17 – Jean and Jay Leonard
- 24 – The Osgoods
- 31 – Susan and Richard Broemeling

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

3 – Jay and Jean Leonard
10 – Vickie Armstrong
17 – Nadine Roberts
24 –
31 –

USHERS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

PARAMENTS (Heidi and Allen Harris)

August Birthdays

2 – Jocelyn Loosli	27 – Sandy O’Connell
8 – Gail Corlett -Trueba	28 – Madilynn Carlton
10 – Susan Walker	29 – Ramona Yrazabal
12 – Nathan Parker	30 – Frankie Guerre
15 – Cynthia Van Blaricom	30 – Kenneth Hill
20 – Kay Eilebrecht	31 – Lori Albright
25 – Jan Jensen	31 – Marty Veldman

August Anniversaries

3 – Debi and Tony Deal
9 – Jean and Jay Leonard
10 – Susan and Howard Walker
13 – Barbara and Roger Fogleman
14 – Terri Jones and Truman Parker
17 – Jo and Phil Gridley

Special Angels for August

LITURGISTS (Linda Thomsen)

7 – Polly Sanders
14 – Gail Banner
21 – Jennifer Andersen
28 – Heidi Harris

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Mollie Marsh)

7 – Ann and Curtis Carlin
14 – Gene and Susan Mussler
21 – Frank and Mollie Marsh
28 – Allen and Heidi Harris

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

7 –
14 –
21 –
28 –

USHERS (Curtis Carlin)

PARAMENTS (Heidi and Allen Harris)

COMMUNION (Linda Thomsen)

From Pastor Deral

“A Time Of New Beginnings!”

A pastor from an earlier generation once wrote that the Christian Life asks for “the abandonment of scattered loyalties for a life of dominant interest in the Kingdom of God.”

Moving through the Life of First Congregational Church is a deepening awareness of the call of God upon us. It is wise to view this transitional period as one in which we, as a congregation, move into an intentional period of discernment and renewal, as we prayerfully seek God’s guidance for the next steps in our Life and ministry together.

And if we truly believe in our Lord’s guidance, then we know, too, that He’s guiding our congregation, and leading us in a new and powerful direction. We’re being called to act on the inspiration He’s giving, rather than stifling His guidance. Through all of this we are a people who can expect great strength from the Lord, as we continue to attempt great strategies for Him.

In the 17th century, the central part of London burned down. There was great suffering, but one thought kept hope alive. They would rebuild a new and better London. The great architect Sir Christopher Wren was commissioned to draw up a plan. Saint Paul’s Cathedral was to be the center of the city. There was great eagerness to see the enterprise take shape. But then people began to insist that their individual houses be placed in exactly the same place as before the fire. And in the end a new and better London was not built. They merely built on the old foundations. They refused to see that something better was possible!

We might be tempted to think that this is an uncertain time, but the truth is that uncertainty forces us to abandon self-reliance and surrender to the Lord’s gracious leading. And rather than just seeking to fill a vacancy, we as a congregation can daily be prayerfully seeking the Lord’s guidance in the next steps of pastoral leadership for the sake of the Kingdom – including our congregational health, as well as the community surrounding us, and the world Jesus died to save.

It’s a time of new beginnings and we can trust that God is opening doors for wider Kingdom impact. May He give us courage, strength, vision, and daring to declare His greatness and do His will!

Pastor Deral

July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7 – 9 MHAA
3 11 a.m. Worship	4 Independence Day – Office Closed	5 Pastoral Deral on vacation	6	7 7 p.m. Troop 19	8 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	9 7 – 9 MHAA
10 11 a.m. Worship 6 P.M. LADY LIBERTY PICNIC	11 Pastoral Deral on vacation 6:30 Trustees 7 Troop/Crew 57	12 Pastoral Deral on vacation	13	14 7 p.m. Troop 19	15	16 7 – 9 MHAA
17 11 a.m. Worship	18 Pastor Deral 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 7 Troop/Crew 57	19 Pastor Deral 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	20	21 7 p.m. Troop 19	22	23 7 – 9 MHAA
24 11 a.m. Worship	25 Pastor Deral 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 7 Troop/Crew 57	26 Pastor Deral 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	27	28 7 p.m. Troop 19	29	30 7 – 9 MHAA
31 11 a.m. Worship						

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pastor Deral 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. 7 p.m. Diaconate 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	2 Pastor Deral 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3	4 7 p.m. Troop 19	5 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	6 7 – 9 MHAA
7 11 a.m. Worship	8 Pastor Deral 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	9 Pastor Deral 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	10	11 7 p.m. Troop 19	12	13 7 – 9 MHAA
14 11 a.m. Worship	15 Pastor Deral 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	16 Pastor Deral 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	17	18 7 p.m. Troop 19	19	20 7 – 9 MHAA
21 11 a.m. Worship After worship – Christian Ed	22 Pastor Deral 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	23 Pastor Deral 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. 7 p.m. Church Council	24	25 7 p.m. Troop 19	26	27 7 – 9 MHAA
28 11 a.m. Worship	29 Pastor Deral 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	30 Pastor Deral 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	31			