

# Mountain Proclamations

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

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

February 2023

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

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## Rev. Tyler Connoley

Conference minister Rev. Tyler Connoley will be with us on **Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**. Please make plans to join us on this Sunday to give him a warm First Congregational Welcome.

Pastor Deral will be preaching and Rev. Connoley will be Liturgist and will administer communion.

## Diaconate Meeting Change

The Diaconate Board will meet after worship on **Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**. This is the regular monthly meeting for February.

## Boy Scout Sunday

Please welcome the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venture Crews on **Sunday, February 12<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.

## Donation Records 2022

End of year Giving Statements for 2022 were 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 208-590-2650.

## Women of the Church

### *Women's Fellowship*

To God be the Glory!

Women's Fellowship had a wonderful meeting in January. Their guest speaker was the Mountain Home Police Chief, John Thompson. The Women's Fellowship donated 20 blankets to the Mountain Home Police Department. These blankets will be given to the patrols to use to help give comfort to people who are in crisis.

Ladies, come out and see what other wonderful things the Women's Fellowship is doing in our community. Their February potluck luncheon /meeting will be on **Friday the 10th at noon**.

Hostesses are Gail Banner and Frankie Guerre. Be sure to bring a friend. Another guest speaker will be joining them.

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

### *Bible Study*

Women's Bible Study is up and running! The book is *Grace* by Max Lucado. We will meet on **the 1st and 3rd Thursday at 10:30 AM. February's classes will be Thursdays February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>**. If you need a book, please let the office know. Each book is \$12.71. It is also available on Kindle and Audio. All women of the church are invited to attend.

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)

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Black History Banquet

The Mountain Home Community Black History Committee will not have our formal February celebration for Black History Month, our 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Black History Anniversary Banquet in 2023.

We all still can take time to remember, celebrate, and learn by researching and reading about Black History

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 19<sup>th</sup>** at the 11 a.m. service.

Joe McNeal will be hosting Fellowship Hour.

## Presidents' Day

The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>** in recognition of Presidents' Day.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is back!!

Please join us on **Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m.** for a Pancake Supper of sausage, ham, and, of course, pancakes! This is **not** a potluck. Just bring yourself, your family, a friend or two. Everything will be provided. There is not a study afterwards; this is simply a time for fellowship and fun.

Gluten-free pancakes will be available upon request.

## Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday worship will be at **7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** here at First Congregational.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

This year's theme is "It's Time to Share"

"So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all."

**Galatians 6:9-10 [The Message]**

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Click here to visit the OGHS webpage on [ucc.org https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-](https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-)

[give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/](#)

The One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten Offering will be taken on **Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**. There are no Giving Calendars for suggested giving this year, but coin boxes will be available should you wish to use one for your own giving ideas.

## The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering

The Annual Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering will also begin **Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** and will conclude on **Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</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.

There will be a hamper by the bulletin table for you to place your offerings in.

## Card Elves Update

We would like to thank everyone who continues to contribute cards to the Card Elves to help this ministry continue. We couldn't do it without your help. Thank you to Vickie Armstrong for her handmade cards. We love to use them.

We thought you might like to know how many cards went out last year. We mailed out 564 cards for any and all occasions. Of those, we had two (2) mass mailings, one for Easter and one for Christmas. We apologize if we have missed anyone or been late in sending a card out. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry in our Church.

*In Christ's Love,  
The Card Elves*

## Search Committee Update

In April the Search Committee was put together again. The Members this year are Gail Banner, Kelli Collett, Ken Andersen, Linda Ramsey, Mollie Marsh, Polly Sanders, and Roger Fogleman. We had the Church's new profile completed by the first part of June, but as of yet, we've had no applications.

In November we list our church on the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC), the Association of

Congregational churches not affiliated with the UCC. We are still playing the waiting game and will see where the New Year takes us.

## *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 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.

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.

## *Thank You*

### *The First Friday Quilters*

Thank you, First Friday Quilters for the monetary donation given to the church at Christmas. It is a pleasure to have you here on the First Friday of each month enjoying fellowship and creativity. 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 2022 Annual Report for the 2023 Annual Meeting. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated.

*Jennifer Andersen,*  
*Church Secretary*

### *Paper Donations*

Thank you to the anonymous donor of a case of printer paper to the church. Paper is a *very* important part of the operations of the church. These types of donations really help the church budget go farther. Thank you!!!

## *Pilgrim Cove Camp*

Below is a list of 2023 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 2023.

**Winter Family Retreat** – February 3 – 5, 2023, all ages, cost \$95

**Idaho Association Meeting**, April 21 – 22, 2023, UCC members, cost TBA

**Spring Work Weekend**, May 26 – 29, 2023, all, cost – FREE

**Summer Youth Camp**, July 9 – 14, 2023, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, cost - \$350

**Family Camp**, July 28 – 30, 2023, anyone, cost – \$110

**Women's Retreat**, July 31 – Aug 3, 2023, adult women, cost – \$185

**Grandparent's Camp**, October 6 – 8, 2023, Grandparent/grandchild, cost – \$120

**Fall Work Weekend**, October 27 – 29, 2023, anyone, cost – FREE

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

## *Upcoming Events*

### *Wednesday Lenten Potluck and Study*

Beginning on **Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6 p.m.** we will have our first Lenten Potluck in 3 years!!! Bring a covered dish to share. Beverages and bread will be provided. Following the potluck, at approximately 6:30 p.m. we will begin our Lenten Study on The Path of the Passion; Jesus' 7 Words from the Cross. There are no study materials required; Pastor Deral will supply everything we need.

These two events will run from **Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> through Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.**

### *Holy Week Schedule*

**Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Palm Sunday and the conclusion of One Great Hour of Sharing and The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering. Worship is at 11 a.m.

No Lenten potluck and study on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Maundy Thursday worship** – 7 p.m. Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** – to be announced

**Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**

7 a.m. Sunrise Service

8 a.m. Easter Breakfast with Easter Egg hunt afterwards

11 a.m. Worship

## *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*

17	Jennifer & Ken Andersen
19	Rick and Mariah Parks

## *Special Angels for February*

### LITURGISTS (Rick Parks)

5 – Rev. Tyler Connoley  
12 – Ken Andersen  
19 – Joe McNeal  
26 – Molly Marsh

### USHERS (Curtis Carlin)

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up Sheet)

5 – Vickie Armstrong  
12 – Nancy Sobien and Rita Olson  
19 – Joe and Mildred McNeal  
26 – Kay Eilebrecht

### FLOWERS (Sign-Up Sheet)

5 – Judy Case  
12 – Beth DeVore  
19 – Nadine Roberts  
26 – Nadine Roberts

### PARAMENTS (Heidi and Allen Harris)

### COMMUNION (Sandy O'Connell)

## *From Pastor Deral*

There's a great scene in the movie "Hoosiers", where Gene Hackman plays the role of Norman Dale, a former college coach with a tainted past, who is hired to coach a rural high school basketball team from Hickory, Indiana. Coach Dale leads the team all the way to the state finals. On the day of the semifinals, the team arrives at Butler Fieldhouse, the huge arena where they're to play in a couple of hours. When his team enters, their jaws fall slack and their eyes open wide. Gawking at the seats, the stand-alone goals, the suspended scoreboard, the lights – they're awestruck and intimidated.

Coach Dale instructs one of his players to take a tape measure and determine the distance between the free-throw line and the goal. "What's the distance?" he asks. "Fifteen feet," says the player. Dale then tells the smallest player on the team to climb on the shoulders of a taller player so they can measure the goal. "How high is it?" he asks. "Ten feet," the player says.

Coach Dale says, "I believe you'll find these are the exact same measurements as our gym back in Hickory."

The team members share some laughter, and everyone begins to relax. As they exit the gym, Coach Dale turns to an assistant coach and whispers, "It IS big!"

Ever feel that way? We all have. As we move further into a new year - what lies ahead? We had no idea at the beginning of last year what we'd encounter and be called to deal with – and it's the same for 2023. New projects; facing difficult problems; dealing with tough situations; realizing tremendous breakthroughs. None of us really know whether it's minute changes or monumental challenges that lie ahead. The future can look mighty big!

*As a church family we can look back at past providence and look forward to future provision!*

As a congregation, our desire is not merely to take steps into a new year, but to move into a new understanding of our Life together, under the Lord's guidance and provision. We want to nurture an environment where we can imagine together the new future that God is in the process of calling forth – that of being a worshipping congregation of authentic followers who are being equipped and sent every day into our world, to proclaim the Lord's love and reproduce His Life!

The trouble with new year's resolutions is that our own resolve can wither. We can only turn over a 'new leaf' so many times, until we begin to realize it's the same old leaf either way!

Instead, Jesus offers us New Life!

*Lord, as this new year unfolds, help us to look to You, trust You, follow You, love You, serve You. Only in You do we find Life as it's meant to be. Make us more truly Your people – a Spirit-dependent, surrendered, expectant, loving, and released people – ready to live for You and do Your will. Amen.*

*Pastor Deral*

# February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1 – 3 PEO mtg.	2 10:30 Women's Bible Study 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	3 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	4 7- 9 p.m. AA
5 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion Rev. Tyler Connoley visits <b>After worship Diaconate Board meeting</b>	6 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	7 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Pastor Deral's in the office	8	9 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	10 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship	11 7- 9 p.m. AA
<b>Scout Sunday 12</b> 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	13 6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	Valentine's Day 14 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Pastor Deral's in the office	15	16 10:30 Women's Bible Study 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	17	18 7- 9 p.m. AA
<b>Black History Sunday 19</b> 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	20 President's Day <b>Office Closed</b>	21 <b>6 p.m. Shrove Pancake Supper</b>	22 4 p.m. Pastor Deral's office hours 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship	23 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	24	25 7- 9 p.m. AA
<i>First Sunday of Lent</i> 26 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship After worship Church Council	27 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	28 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Pastor Deral's in the office				

# March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4 p.m. Pastor Deral's hours 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study	2 10:30 Women's Bible Study 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	3 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	4 7- 9 p.m. AA
<i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> 5 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion <b>Diaconate Board ?</b>	6 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	7	8 4 p.m. Pastor Deral's hours 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study	9 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	10 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship	11 7- 9 p.m. AA
<i>Third Sunday of Lent</i> 12 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	13 6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	14 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voting	15 4 p.m. Pastor Deral's hours 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study	16 10:30 Women's Bible Study 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 7- 9 p.m. AA
<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> 19 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship <b>Christian Ed.</b>	20 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	21	22 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study	23 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	24	25 7- 9 p.m. AA
<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> 26 NO Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship <b>Church Council</b>	27	28 ←----Spring -----→	29 4 p.m. Pastor Deral's hours 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study	30 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19  Break -----→	31	

