

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org **January 2023** churchinfo@mhfccucc.org

Volume 56- Issue 1

New Year's Schedule

The office will be closed on **Thursday, December 29th and Monday, January 2** in observance of New Years.

These Days

The *These Days* Devotional booklets have arrived! They are on the bulletin table.

Thank you, Helena DeWeerd, for your generous donation again this year to provide these devotional booklets for us.

All Boards and Committees

Year-end 2022 Annual Reports are due in the office by **Wednesday, January 4th**, earlier if possible, so they can be prepared for distribution at our Annual Meeting on **Sunday, January 15th**.

Fellowship and Flowers

Sign-up sheets for Flowers and Fellowship for 2023 are now on the sign-up table by the bulletins. **January still needs volunteers!** Pick your Sunday while the selection is at its best!

Women's Fellowship

January's Women's Fellowship pot-luck luncheon and meeting will be held at noon at the church on **Friday, January 13th**. We hope to have a special guest speaker...more about that later! Upcoming plans for the 2023 year will be discussed. Hostesses are Nadine Roberts and Nancy Sobien.

All women of the church *and community* are invited to attend. 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

Women's Bible Study is starting up again! The book is *Grace* by Max Lucado. We will meet on **the 1st and 3rd Thursday at 10:30 AM. January's classes will be Thursdays**

January 5th and 19th. 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

2023 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for 2023 will be on **Sunday, January 15th**, immediately after worship.

This is an important meeting as we will vote on our final budget for 2023. Please plan to attend so that we may have a quorum.

By-Law Amendments

The amendments to the church By-Laws have been completed by the By-Law Amendment committee of Gene Mussler, Jean Leonard, Beth DeVore, and Truman Parker. These amendments have been approved by the Church Council. Now it's your turn. Copies of the amendments are available on the bulletin table or from the office for you to pick up and look over before the Annual Meeting. These will also be attached to the weekly e-newsletter, *In the Loop* and to the January 2023 Mountain Proclamations newsletters that are *emailed*.

Potluck Sunday

Potluck Sunday is **Sunday, January 15th**, right after the Annual Meeting. Bring your favorite casserole, side dish, or dessert to share with church family and friends. Beverages will be provided. All are welcome to the table.

Office Closed January 16

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the church office will be closed on **Monday, January 16th**.

From the Search Committee

The Search Committee is diligently working on finding a new pastor and we are looking at different venues and opportunities. While we have not found anyone as of today, please keep us in your prayers, so that God may guide us in the right direction.

Thank You

Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar 2023

Wow! Thank you to the Women's Fellowship members, husbands, friends and congregation for helping us have a wonderful, profitable bazaar! There were so many that lent a helping hand, and everyone was much appreciated.

Special thanks to Linda Ramsey for chairing Horner's Corner; Sherry Bush for chairing the baked and canned items; Betty Ashcraft for organizing the cashiers; Bobbi Bergh, Linda Ramsey, Sherry Bush and Judy Case for making and baking the yummy cinnamon rolls; all the pie bakers; Kaye Eilebrecht for janitor service; Lars Hansen for always being willing to help; and everyone who moved tables, set-up sales items, cashiered, served food, did dishes, and helped with the hard clean up! May you all be rewarded in heaven!

The winners of our silent auction were Truman Parker (1/3 cord of wood) and Jason Thompson (quilt). Thanks to Lee Wright and Kellie Collett for graciously donating the items.

Women's Fellowship made a nice \$2700 that we will in turn donate to helping our church and to local charitable causes and outreach.

Frank Marsh, Eddie Bush, Lee Wright and Lars Hansen...you are our special angels!

*Thanks for your support
Women's Fellowship*

Giving Tree 2022 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 14 more children to have a great Christmas as well. So, in total we were able to help 34 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*

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 –Anita Christianson, Ken Hill, Sally Henderson (with a letter to us all) and Pilgrim Cove Camp.

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 over \$431. Thank you so much for thinking of others, as you always do.

Christmas Potluck Dinner

It was so very good to be back together for the Christmas Potluck luncheon. About 55 people were in attendance and lots of helpers.

Thank you to Sherry Bush, Kay Eilebrecht, Nadine Roberts, Curtis Carlin, Lars Hansen, Linda Thomsen, and the Fogleman grandkids for all the help with setting up and cleaning up afterwards. Thank you to Curtis Carlin and Allen Harris for cooking the hams that were so very, very good.

And, of course, thank you to all the church members who brought food and/or good company to share with one another. If anyone who helped is not listed, please know your helping hand was much appreciated.

Board members

Thank you to all the board and committee members whose terms finished up in 2022. Your service and dedication to the church family is much appreciated.

To all those coming in for their first term in 2023, 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.

To Eddie Bush

Many thanks to Eddie Bush. Besides making sure minor (and sometimes major!) repairs are done in a timely fashion, Eddie also makes sure that the sidewalks and entry ways are cleared of snow and ice as much as possible.

Thank you, Eddie, for all your efforts to keep us safe as we come and go here at God's house.

To Betty Ashcraft And The Sunday School Children

While we didn't exactly have a Christmas program this year, Betty Ashcraft still managed to help the children to be a part of our Advent and Christmas celebrations and worship.

Through her writing and coaching, the kids presented the meaning of the last two Advent candles as they were being lit and sang songs for us. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, with her special guest, Santa Claus, she presented gifts to the children.

Thank you, Betty, for all your hard work and the sharing of your amazing talents. **Thank you so very much to all the parents and grandparents who get their offspring to Sunday School every Sunday.** The Christmas season wouldn't be the same without all of your creative efforts and cooperation.

Christmas Eve Service

And a beautiful Christmas tradition continues, even with Mother Nature making a fuss.

Many thanks to The Bell Choir, directed by Frankie Guerre, and the Chancel Choir, directed by Doreen Solum for providing beautiful music to help us all settle down from the frantic preparations. Thank you to Gail Banner, Rita Olson, and Heidi Harris for reading the Scriptures that never grow old that remind us all of the "Reason for the Season". Thank you to the Diaconate Board who made the whole worship run smoothly and the video team for helping add interest to the meditation.

And, of course, thank you to Pastor Deral for providing a unique meditation for all of us to ponder for days to come. We might never again look at a Christmas bell in the same way.

Thank you From Pastor Deral and Garren

Garren and I want to thank all of you for your generous gifts, gift cards and cards of greetings through this Advent/Christmas season. We especially want to thank Women's Fellowship for the thoughtful gift.

Pastor Deral and Garren

Pilgrim Cove Camp

NOTE: The minutes and financial statements referenced in Jeremy's letter below are available from the office upon request.

"Good Evening Church Family,

As an effort to continue to keep our churches informed of what is happening at Pilgrim Cove Camp, we are sending all of churches updates after each board meeting. You will find attached the minutes from our meetings for the past several months and our last financial statement.

We will continue to send out meeting meetings once they are approved along with a quarterly financial statement. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to begin touch with me at the camp for more information. Also please check out our new website at www.pilgrimcovecamp.org. Information about next year's program schedule will be coming soon.

I would also like to take this chance to also make you aware that I am available and would like to visit all of our churches again this year. Just let me know when you would like me to come and I will come and worship with you and share about what is happening at Pilgrim Cove Camp. I would also like to thank all of you and your members for your continued support of the ministry at Pilgrim Cove Camp. Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Take Care,
Jeremy

Jeremy N Force
Manager - Pilgrim Cove Camp
208-634-5555
www.pilgrimcovecamp.org

Upcoming Events

Rev. Tyler Connoley

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

In Loving Memory

James "Jim" MacPherson Tagg
April 21, 1933 – November 29, 2022

Our Condolences

Stephanie Loewen on the loss
of her Sister-in-Law

Anniversaries for January

1 Nadine and Bob Roberts
31 Linda and Philip Miller

Birthdays for January

3 Am Carlton	15 Susan Broemeling
6 Skip Sobien	18 Frank Marsh
7 Kevin "Osi" Osgood	18 David Olson
11 Richard Townsend	21 Angelina Pearsall
14 Charles Olson	23 Lee Kaufman
31 Heather Osgood	

Special Angels for January

LITURGISTS (Rick Parks)

1 – Betty Ashcraft
8 – Christine Negri
15 – Mildred McNeal
22 – Frank Marsh
29 – Rick Parks

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up sheet)

1 – Nancy Sobien and Nadine Roberts
8 –
15 – Potluck
22 –
29 –

FLOWERS (Sign-up sheet)

1 – Poinsettias
8 –
15 – Susan and Richard Broemeling
22 –
29 –

USHERS (Lee Wright)

PARAMENTS (Allen Harris)

COMMUNION (Linda Thomsen)

From Pastor Deral

As I've thought and prayed about the Sunday message series to begin a new year – taking our world and day-to-day events; our congregation, and the kinds of things we're facing and dealing

with; along with my own reading, feelings, and thoughts – the direction I keep being led toward is a picture of the Israelites, at the point of having fled Egypt, moving toward the wilderness, but caught between the Red Sea and the pursuing Egyptians.

What are the words that describe them? Distressed. Afraid. Caught. Trapped. Worried. Stressed. Anxious. Frightened. Terror. No way out; nowhere to turn; caught in a cul-de-sac of seeming impossibility.

The truth of it is, how do we deal with our fears when it seems as though the Red Sea is in front of us, the desert surrounds us, and the forces of an army are charging in with swords waving?

That's why I had Garren enhance this little picture of Moses talking with his brother Aaron...



Over the next few weeks, as we launch into 2023, we're going to focus on "taking off the floaties"! We'll talk about faith-filled lives in the middle of a fear-full culture. What it means to live in the light of God's glory; waiting and watching for our Lord to work; being surrounded by the Presence of God – all from lessons we can glean from the Old Testament book of Exodus, chapter 14.

I'm looking forward to our journey together!

Pastor Deral

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day 11 a.m. Worship	2 Office Closed 7 p.m. Diaconate Board	3 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Pastor Deral's in the office	4	5 10:30 Women's Bible Study 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	6 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	7 7- 9 p.m. AA
8 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion	9 6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	10 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Pastor Deral's in the office	11	12 2 p.m. Bell practice 3 p.m. Choir practice 7 p.m. Troop 19	13 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship	14 7- 9 p.m. AA
MLK Sunday 15 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship After worship: Annual Meeting Potluck Christian Ed mtg.	16 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed	17 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Pastor Deral's in the office 1 – 3 PEO mtg.	18	19 10:30 Women's Bible Study 2 p.m. Bell 3 p.m. Choir 7 p.m. Troop 19	20	21 7- 9 p.m. AA
22 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship After Worship: Church Council	23 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	24 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Pastor Deral's in the office	25	26 2 p.m. Bell practice 3 p.m. Choir practice 7 p.m. Troop 19	27	28 7- 9 p.m. AA
29 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	30 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	31 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Pastor Deral's in the office				

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	6 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 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
Scout Sunday 12 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
Black History Sunday 19 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	20 President's Day Office Closed	21 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Pastor Deral's in the office (?) 6 p.m. Shrove Pancake Supper	22 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				