

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org

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Christmas Program

There will be a Christmas program this year and rehearsal is during Sunday school starting **Sunday December 1**. Questions or you would like to help? Contact Betty Ashcraft.

The program will be presented **Sunday, December 15th** during the 11 a.m. worship service.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Our quarterly **Red Cross Blood Drive** will be on **Tuesday, December 3rd from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Note – this is a change from our normal Wednesday schedule.

If you would like to help, check people in or serve snacks sometime during the day, please contact Rick Parks. **Speaking of snacks** – Rick thought that it would be great to be able to offer homemade cookies to the donors, volunteer help, and the Red Cross workers. If you would like to provide a couple dozen homemade cookies for this event, please contact Rick Parks.

Poinsettia Dedications

Beginning **Sunday, December 1st** you may start bringing in your live (no silk ones, please) poinsettias. Those being shared as memorials or dedications, will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin so be sure to give this information to the church office by **Wednesday, December 18th**. Forms will be available on the back table beginning **Sunday, November 24th**.

Poinsettias may be dropped off at the church office Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or brought in on Sunday mornings. **If you want your poinsettia back after Christmas, please be sure to put your name on it.** You may take your plant home any time after our Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Giving Tree!!

Giving Tree Tags are in.
Would you like a tag or two??

See Ann Carlin either before or after church from now until Dec. 15th and she will gladly help you get your tag or two.

Let's help to make a child's Christmas even brighter. ALL tags need to be in by December 15th so that Ann and Curtis can drop the Giving Tree tag items off at the Giving Tree office to be wrapped and delivered.

If you have any questions, please contact Ann Carlin and she will be happy to help.

Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar

The bazaar will be held on Saturday, **December 7th from 8 a.m. until 12 noon**. All members of the church are asked to participate! Set up will be on Thursday, December 5th and Friday, December 6th.

Fresh baked cinnamon rolls and pieces of pie will be available along with many homemade items, bakery items, decorations . . . old and new! Items to sell are greatly encouraged . . .

Please contact Women's Fellowship if you have any questions! All sales (monies) become the property of Women's Fellowship.

❀❀We need donations of gift-worthy items and crafted items ❀❀

Whether you're a man, woman or child and your craft is wood, yarn, thread, cloth or recycled items, or you bake, can or pickle the bounty from your garden, please share your talent and your art with the Christmas Bazaar.

Editor's note: The Women's Fellowship spends these monies on the church – coffee, tea, and other condiments for Fellowship Hour and potlucks. They also make contributions toward other needed items around the church as well as donations to charitable organizations around town. Come support those who support us.

Tree lighting dinner on Base

We are looking for volunteers to provide salads or desserts for a special dinner for the airmen and their families who will be attending the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on base on **December 12th**. The food needs to be to the base chapel by 4:30 p.m. on **Thursday, December 12th**. If you can help with this, please contact the church office at (208)587-4969 or mhfccucc@gmail.com

There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the Sanctuary or you may sign up on the Chapel's sign-up app:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4FABAB2DA0F94-53050420-mhafb>

NOTE: Our church is the only church bringing desserts and salads. Let's do this BIG for the airmen who look out for all of us.

Thank you so much for considering this ministry.

For the Women of the Church

Women's Fellowship Christmas Party and recycled gift exchange

Women's Fellowship will hold their December meeting/Christmas Party Pot-Luck Luncheon at **noon on December 13th**. Ham will be provided, just bring a dish to share.

After feasting on our always delicious table of food, we will have a short meeting to wrap up the recent fundraisers, install the new officers for the 2025 year, toss around ideas for the new year and have a gift exchange. Everyone is asked to bring a homemade, recycled, re-gifted gift.

All women of the community are invited...the more the merrier!

Blue Christmas Service

Blue Christmas is a reflective service for those who are experiencing loss. This year's Blue Christmas service is held at Mountain Home Church of the Nazarene, 950 N. 7th East, on **Friday, December 20th at 6:00 p.m.**

Blue Christmas service provides a quiet and contemplative worship service as an alternative to the more traditional gatherings. This is in honor of those who are experiencing grief and struggling with loss, particularly throughout the holidays.

Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross

Be the Light – “. . . the Glory of God shone around them . . .” Luke 2:9

For over one hundred years, **The Christmas Fund** has provided direct financial assistance to the healers in all our lives: retired and active UCC ministers, church workers, and their families. You are part of the community of **The Christmas Fund**, whether you donate at Christmastime, benefit directly from our grant or leadership programs, or simply believe in our mission to help secure the financial foundation of those engaged in the life of the church.

Please consider donating today to ensure more healers receive the loving support of the Church in their moment of deepest need. **The Christmas Fund was here for them.** And regardless of who you are or what brought you to the United Church of Christ, **The Christmas Fund is here for you.**

Your gift is more than just a testament to your belief in the values of the United Church of Christ, it is a critical lifeline for those who depend on our grant programs for care and support. Thank you again for your generosity.

See the website (www.christmasfund.org) and the bulletin inserts for all the wonderful things that the Christmas Fund does for our active and retired clergy and their families.

Christmas Luncheon

The Christmas Luncheon will be on **Sunday, December 15th** after worship. Ham, bread and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Everyone is invited to the table!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Our Christmas Eve worship service will be at 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, December 24th**.

Office Christmas Schedule

The office will be **closed** on Wednesday, December 25th and Thursday, December 26th. If you have an emergency for the pastor, you may call Pastor Deral at [REDACTED]. If you need the office, you may call Jennifer Andersen at [REDACTED]. She will only be available by phone.

Thank you

Fall Decorations

Thank you to Lee Wright, Rita Olson, Rick Bush, Mike Bush, Sherry Bush, and Ian Thomas, for the beautiful harvest decorations in the Sanctuary. Thank you for all the beauty you brought into our worship space. And a special Thank You to Lee Wright for checking the decorations weekly to be sure that they look wonderful all month.

Pie Sale

On behalf of Women's Fellowship, I would like to thank everybody who helped make the pie auction a successful fundraiser. We made \$1,380.00! Proceeds will be used to support church projects and fund community outreach donations.

Our thanks to everyone who baked pies and to the generous folks who bid on them.

Thanks, too, to Susan Broemeling for donating two beautiful glass pieces, Linda Ramsey for her donation of cloth pie carrier and Jennifer Andersen for the crocheted tarts. These items brought in additional funds to the total raised.

Special thanks to our auctioneer, Roger Fogleman who kept the bids coming and put the “fun” in fundraising. Thanks to our cashiers Sherry Bush, Betty Ashcraft and Linda Ramsey and to Betty Celaya who set up and arranged the pies ready for the auction.

Nadine Roberts, Chairman

Editor’s Note: Thank you, Nadine Roberts, for coordinating this event again this year. Nadine has been organizing this since 2011!

Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child 2024

Sixteen people, including two children, gathered in the Fellowship Hall at church on Nov. 16th and with love and thought put together 27 shoeboxes crammed full of gifts for needy children. Where they will end up, we will not know until the new year! In the past our shoeboxes have gone to remote villages in Mexico.

Women’s Fellowship thanks everyone who donated time, items or monetary donations ... it definitely is a church wide outreach project! We sure have learned a lot since we started filling these shoeboxes many years ago!

Nancy Sobien

Thanksgiving Dinner

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
To all who drove, cooked, decorated, served, cleaned up, etc. at our annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

We had our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 24th, 2024. This wonderful night of food & fellowship started off with a prayer done by Pastor Deral Schrom. There were 63 people present, and 18 shut-in meals were delivered for a total of 81 meals; a great time was had by all, and \$70 was donated for future events. The festivities were put together by Curtis Carlin and his crew of Thanksgiving helpers. The cooks for the turkeys & hams were Gail Banner, Sherry Bush, Ann Carlin, Allen Harris, and Sandra Moehn. The beautiful decorations were done by Lee Wright, Curtis Carlin, Eddie Bush, Lola Moehn, Luna Moehn, Erica, and Kay E. Delivery Drivers were Betty Ashcraft and Al Foster, Allen and Heidi Harris with Luna Moehn, Grace Townsend and Janet Chriske. Thank you to Sandra Moehn and Ericia for serving the turkey and ham. A huge THANK YOU goes out to EVERYONE (too many to name individually) who stayed

behind and helped to clean everything up; everyone who pitched in the clean-up made it go very quickly.

*Sincerely,
Curtis Carlin*

Unity Service

The Unity Service was held at our church this year on Tuesday, November 26th, and a big **thank you** to those who stepped up to help make it a blessed event.

Eddie Bush made sure everything was set up and ready to go with the help of Curtis Carlin and Lee Wright who were also the ushers. Pastor Deral welcomed the worshipers. Sherry Bush and Kay Eilbrecht were hostesses during the fellowship time. Thank you all for helping to make this a wonderful celebration of Thanksgiving.

End of year giving

If you want credit in **2024** for your December tithe, be sure to have it to the church before **December 31st**. If you mail it, be sure that it is in the mail to be **postmarked** before or on December 31st. Anything received after that will go on your 2025 giving statement.

Pilgrim Cove Request

We have received a request letter from the Board of Directors who oversee the Pilgrim Cove Camp. The Board has just completed a Master Plan for the camp for the next 15 – 20 years. The plan includes upgrades to the camp i.e. adding bedrooms, installing bathrooms to each cabin, making the camp more amendable to guests; adding a new maintenance garage, and a grant for a waterfront pavilion. They are asking our congregation to help support their plan. The following ways to contribute to Pilgrim Cove Camp are: donate to Mortgage paydown, donate to Capital Campaign, donate to an Endowment fund, donate to designated projects. So, if you would like to make a donation, please use one of the envelopes in the back of each pew, and mark your donation for PILGRIM COVE. You may also donate through the Pilgrim Cove Camp website at <https://www.pilgrimcovecamp.org/payment-and-donations> Thank you!

Pledges for 2024

If you were not able to get your pledge in before the Pledge Blessing on Sunday, November 24th, no worries. Just bring it to church next Sunday, anytime during office hours, drop it in the UPS box (no money, please), or mail it back to us in the envelope provided with the Stewardship Letter you received. You lost your card? The church has more; just contact the office.

Directory Update

Suzanne Dillard



From Ken Hill

The church family received a Thanksgiving Card from long time member, Ken Hill, who now lives in Bend OR.

His card is available to read in the office.

Community Service Opportunity

The Salvation Army would really appreciate some help with the bell ringing at Wal-Mart. The shifts are an hour and a half at a time. If you are interested in helping you may call Don Nesbitt at (208)230-4703. Or sign up at the link below:

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/612392836013/false#/invitation>

Upcoming Events

All Boards and Committees

Year-end Annual Reports are due in the office by **Thursday, January 2nd**, earlier if possible, so they can be prepared for distribution at our Annual Meeting on **Sunday, January 12th**.

2025 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is on **Sunday, January 14, 2025**. This is the time when we review all the happenings of 2024 and finalize the budget for 2025.

In Loving Memory



Birthdays in December

2 – Richard Bush	22 – Truman Parker
15 – Todd Paille	26 – Bud Weise
15 – Lee Wright	28 – Ethan Townsend
20 – Regan Hinger	31 – Carrie DiGuido

Anniversaries in December

8 – Sue and Wade Baumgardner
9 – Sherry and Eddie Bush
17 – Stephanie and Kevin Osgood
20 – Susan and Richard Broemeling
28 – Rita and David Olson

Special Angels for December

LITURGISTS (Jay Leonard)

1 – Grace Townsend
8 – Susan Broemeling
15 – Polly Sanders
22 – Christine Negri
29 – Susan Walker

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (sign-up sheet)

1 – Kelli Collett and Helena DeWeerd
8 – Becky Hall
15 – Christmas Luncheon
22 – Moehn Family
29 – Sherry Bush

FLOWERS (sign-up sheet)

Christmas Décor

ADVENT CANDLE (Curtis Carlin)

1 – Ann and Curtis Carlin
8 – Diane Venski and Zoe Duty
15 – Rita Olson and Axel and Arwen
22 – The Arnold Family
24 – The Moehn Family

USHERS (Heidi Harris and Curtis Carlin)

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Ann Carlin)

From Pastor Deral

As you read this newsletter you're likely trying to return to some semblance of normality in your daily Life. We have just celebrated with friends and loved ones, the bountiful blessings provided by our awesome God in a season of **Thanksgiving**.

For many of us our family traditions include a magnificent meal complete with roasted turkey and all the trimmings (and unfortunately for some of us, too much football and too little rest!) But hopefully our observance also included time to count our blessings, worshipping our loving Lord here at First Congregational, and remembering all those who have gone on before us, who are now celebrating the joys and rewards of Heaven.

And now we're entering the season of the **greatest Thanksgiving** – the season of **Advent** – celebrating the greatest gift ever given – the birth, Life, death, and resurrection of our Savior Jesus!

During this **Advent** season we're going to focus on changing our "humbugs" to "hallelujahs" – to truly know the joy of Christmas. With Scripture as our foundation, and Charles Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*, we're going to take an Advent journey to see what we can learn about the meaning, depth, and richness of the season, and our Life.

I'm looking forward to the journey with you

Pastor Deral

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship With Communion 1 st Sunday Advent	2 5:30 pm GSA 7 pm Diaconate 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	3 BLOOD DRIVE 9 am – 4 pm 5:30 pm Women's AA	4 1 pm – PEO 4 p.m. – GSA 976	5 1 – 4 p.m. Bazaar set-up 5 pm – Choir 6 pm – Bells	6 10 am – First Friday Quilters 1 pm-4pm Bazaar Set up	7 8 am – Noon BAZAAR 7 pm – 9 pm AA
8 10 am – Sunday School 11 am – Worship	9 5:30 pm GSA 6:30 pm - Trustees 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	10 5:30 pm – Women's AA	11 4 pm – GSA 976	12 5 pm – Choir 6 pm – Bells	13 12 pm – Women's Fellowship 4 p.m. BSA lock.	14 7 pm – 9 pm AA In – 10 a.m.
15 10 am – Sunday School 11 an – Worship w/Christmas Program	16 5:30 pm GSA 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	17 5:30 pm – Women's AA	18 4 pm – GSA 976	19 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	20 5:30 pm GSA	21 7 pm – 9 pm AA
22 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 am-Worship	23 7 pm – Church Council	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:30 Women's AA 7 pm Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27	28 7 pm - 9 pm AA
29 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 am - Worship	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 5:30 pm – Women's AA?				

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 1 p.m. Annual Reports 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	3 10 am – First Friday Quilters	4 7 pm – 9 pm AA
5 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship With Communion	6 7 p.m. Diaconate	7 5:30 pm – Women's AA	8 4 pm – GSA 976	9 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	10 12 pm – Women's Fellowship	11 7 pm – 9 pm AA
12 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Annual Meeting	13 5:30 pm GSA 6:30 pm - Trustees 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	14 5:30 pm – Women's AA	15 4 pm – GSA 976	16 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	17	18 7 pm – 9 pm AA
19 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship POTLUCK	20 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed	21 5:30 pm – Women's AA	22 4 pm – GSA 976	23 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	24	25 7 pm – 9 pm AA
26 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	27 7 pm – Church Council	28 5:30 pm – Women's AA	29 4 pm – GSA 976	30 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	31	