

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org **February 2025**

mhfccucc@gmail.com

Volume 58 - Issue 2

Scout Sunday

Scout Sunday is **Sunday, February 2nd**. All Scouts are welcome to attend no matter which troop, pack, or crew you belong to.

Troop and Crew 57 have a winter camp out that weekend and may not be able to join us. Please keep them and all Scouts in your thoughts and prayers of thanksgiving for all that the Scouts around the world do.

Donation Records 2024

End of year Giving Statements for 2024 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 [REDACTED]

Women of the Church

Women's Fellowship

“Faith Can Move Mountains” is the theme for the 2025 Women's Fellowship.

Ladies, come out and see what wonderful things the Women's Fellowship is doing in our community.

Our February potluck luncheon and meeting will be on **Friday, February 14th at noon**. Hostesses are Linda Ramsey and Sherry Bush.

Please contact Nancy Sobien if you have questions.

The Annual Black History Banquet

The Mountain Home Black History Committee will be hosting their 37th Annual Black History Banquet on **Friday, February 14, 2025**.

The banquet will be held at The Elks Lodge, 325 S. 3rd West. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:15.

The Keynote Speaker will be Angela Taylar, former WNBA Executive and Co-Founder and partner, The Dignitas Agency, LLC.

“Love and Unity in Black History!” is the theme this year. Due to the banquet falling on Valentine's Day, a special dinner and other events will be happening. Therefore, tickets **must** be purchased in advance. No tickets will be available at the door.

Dress is semi-formal. Ticket donation is \$35 per person. **Please RSVP by February 10th**. For more information, call Joe or Mildred McNeal at [REDACTED].

The Mountain Home Community Black History Committee

Black History Sunday

We, as a church, will celebrate Black History Sunday on **Sunday, February 16th** at the 11 a.m. service.

Joe B. McNeal will be hosting Fellowship Hour after worship. For those who have never attended the Black History Sunday Fellowship Hour, Joe puts on a wonderful spread of pulled pork, a selection of sauces, and coleslaw. **This is NOT a potluck. Joe provides everything, including dessert.**

This is must-attend event!

Presidents' Day

The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, February 17th** in recognition of Presidents' Day.

Music Committee

We said “have a great winter” to Dorraine and welcomed Connie as our pianist. Connie is more familiar with praise songs, so if you have any requests, please let Connie or me know. Of course, we're always hoping that more singers and ringers will join us! We have a wide variety of vocal and bell music that we can't sing or play because we don't have enough “warm bodies”, so if you love to sing or can read music and would love to learn to play bells (it isn't hard!), come join us!

Search Committee

The committee continues to pray for a pastoral candidate that would be a good fit for our church. Unfortunately, there are fewer people

going into the ministry, and all the main line churches are having trouble filling vacancies in the pulpit. Keep us in your prayers!

Pastoral Relations

It’s pretty hard to find fault with the job that Pastor Deral is doing for our church, but if you have any concerns, please let Gail or Lee know so we can address them. We’re very blessed to have Deral and Garren in our church family, so if you have a good word to give them, don’t hesitate to tell 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 yellow time and talent card back, please do so soon or pick up a new card from the office or back table in the Sanctuary.

Congratulations

A heartfelt congratulations go out to Joe B. and Mildred McNeal for receiving The Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce on January 25, 2025.

Joe and Mildred, y’all do so much for so many, it is wonderful to see you get acknowledged for all your contributions.

Thank You

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 2024 Annual Report for the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated.

Jennifer Andersen,
Church Secretary

PEO Chapter W

Thank you to PEO Chapter W for their contribution to the Big Blue Bucket. Their contribution of toilet paper will be much

appreciated by those who partake of the food and goods distribution at Calvary Church.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and care, PEO Chapter W.

January 19th Potluck

I would like to thank Frank and Mollie Marsh for purchasing the pizza for our January 19th potluck; everyone enjoyed them a great deal.

Thank you also to Joe and Mildred McNeal for providing the cake for Martin Luther King Jr. Day; the cake was yummy and enjoyed by everyone who snagged a piece.

Thank you to all those who brought salads to round out the meal. There was a wonderful selection.

A huge thank you goes to everyone that helped to get everything set up and cleaned up.

Sincerely,
Curtis Carlin
Social Committee Chairman

Helena DeWeerd

Thank you, Helena, for sponsoring the *These Days* devotional booklets again this year in memory of your husband, John and son, Jeff.

Your generosity is much appreciated by all who use this booklet for their spiritual sustenance.

Outreach Committee

Thank you to the Outreach Committee for sponsoring two Soccer teams through Parks and Rec., one in for this spring and one in the fall.

When the schedules come out, we’ll get those printed up so you can go out a support “our team”.

Paper Donations

Thank you to the anonymous donor of a case of 8.5 X 11 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!!!

Upcoming Events

Time Change!

Sunday, March 9th, we Spring Forward as Daylight Savings Time begins.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Please join us on **Tuesday, March 4th at 6 p.m.** for a Pancake Supper of sausage and 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, March 5th** here at First Congregational.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Be the Light

“Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives.” (Matthew 5:14-16, The Message)

I think of the ministries our One Great Hour of Sharing gifts enable as a showering of unexpected blessings, much like those blessings Jesus granted in his sermon on the mount. Our offerings let people know that they are not alone, that people they don’t even know see their pain and care enough to respond. They extend a mighty witness of love that is powerful and healing.

I hope you’ll participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering this year with a spirit of joyful generosity!

Thank you for ‘bringing out the God-colors in the world’ by generously sharing your OGHS gifts. This is why we are here: to be shining witnesses of uncommon love and enduring hope, to share abundant blessings with others.

*Grateful for you,
The Rev. Shari Prestemon
Acting Associate General Minister & Co-Executive for
Global Ministries*

The One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten Offering will be taken on **Palm Sunday, April 13th**.

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 Memorial Underwear Offering

The Annual Maurie Townsend Memorial Underwear Offering will begin **Sunday, March 9th** and will conclude on **Palm Sunday, April 13th**.

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.

Wednesday Lenten Potluck and Study

Beginning on **Wednesday, March 12th, at 6 p.m.** we will have our Lenten Potluck before our Lenten Study. Bring a covered dish to share. Beverages and bread will be provided.

Following the potluck, at approximately 6:30 p.m., This year our Lenten study on Wednesday evenings will focus on *Crucial Truths Of The Christian Faith* – specifically some of the basic claims of our faith that center around the resurrection. Our world views the resurrection of Jesus as a simply outrageous claim; one that announces that almost 2000 years ago, a man who died an unbelievably horrible death came back to unbelievably wonderful Life! It’s the claim that He offers to include us in this Life with Him, if we will place our trust in Him.

There are no study materials required; Pastor Deral will supply everything we need. **Just bring your Bible.**

These two events will run from **Wednesday, March 12th through Wednesday, April 9th**.

Blood Drives 2025

We will again be hosting Blood Drives here at First Congregational Church. Most of the dates have not been firmed up at this time, but we do know when the next one will be.

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, April 22nd, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** to schedule your donation. If you have the Red Cross Blood Donor app, this makes it *very* easy to set up your appointment time.

If you have any questions or want to help with this event, check in with Rick Parks.

Holy Week Schedule

The below schedule is tentative.

Sunday, April 13th – 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 16, 2025

NO Maundy Thursday worship

Good Friday, April 18th –7 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

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	18 Betty Ashcraft
5 Jo Gridley	18 Betty Parks
7 Joshua Roeder	19 Eddie Bush
10 Lawrence Pearsall	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
17 Sam Hooley	25 Sue Baumgardner

Anniversaries in February

17	Jennifer & Ken Andersen
19	Rick and Mariah Parks

Special Angels for February

LITURGISTS (Polly Sanders)

2 – Susan Broemeling
9 – Vickie Armstrong
16 – Joe B. McNeal
23 - Leela Moehn

USHERS (Curtis Carlin)

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up Sheet)

2 – Kay Eilebrecht
9 – Becky Hall
16 – Joe B. McNeal
23 - Vickie Armstrong

FLOWERS (Sign-Up Sheet)

2 – Christine Negri
9 – Helena DeWeerd
16 – Vickie Armstrong
23 – Nadine Roberts

PARAMENTS (Heidi and Allen Harris)

COMMUNION (Lee Wright)

From Pastor Deraf

As we approach the Season of Lent it’s good to take a look at its meaning and significance for us as Christian believers. Our English word ‘Lent’ is a short form of an Old English word *lencten* – which means “spring season”. But for us it means so much more than simply the anticipated arrival of warmer weather. The Season of Lent is traditionally observed from Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year) to the evening of Holy Saturday; a period of 40 days, excluding Sundays.

At its heart, the Lenten Season is a period of grief in recognizing our sin before a holy and just God. As we progress toward the tremendous celebration of Easter, our preparation involves our own time of daily prayer, Scripture reading and devotion, reflection on ways to simplify our lives in self-denial, and various means of giving of ourselves and our resources in sacrificial ways.

This year our Lenten study on Wednesday evenings will focus on *Crucial Truths Of The Christian Faith* – specifically some of the basic claims of our faith that center around the resurrection. Our world views the resurrection of Jesus as a simply outrageous claim; one that announces that almost 2000 years ago, a man who died an unbelievably horrible death came back to unbelievably wonderful Life! It’s the claim that He offers to include us in this Life with Him, if we will place our trust in Him.

We want to be able to stand steady in what we believe and why, but do so with a loving heart and compassionate spirit. We want to be able to declare that there’s an antidote to the fear that’s so prevalent these days. We want to be able to share Good News with the people we share life with every day. Past history, present reality, and future certainty all unite in our declaration that God is present in our living Savior!

Pastor Deraf

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7 pm – 9 pm AA
2 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship With Communion	3 5:30 pm GSA 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	4 5:30 pm – Women's AA	5 4 pm – GSA 976	6 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	7 10 am – First Friday Quilters	8 7 pm – 9 pm AA
9 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	10 5:30 pm GSA 6:30 pm - Trustees 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	11 5:30 pm – Women's AA	12 4 pm – GSA 976	13 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	14 12 pm Women's Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Black History Banquet @ Elks Lodge	15 7 pm – 9 pm AA
<i>Black History Sunday</i> 16 10 am Sunday School <u>11 am Worship</u> Joe McNeal hosts Fellowship Hour	17 President's Day OFFICE CLOSED	18 5:30 pm – Women's AA	19 4 pm – GSA 976	20 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	21	22 7 pm – 9 pm AA
23 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship	24 5:30 pm GSA 7 p.m. Church Council 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	25 5:30 pm – Women's AA	26 4 pm – GSA 976	27 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	28	

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7 pm – 9 pm AA
2 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship With Communion	3 5:30 pm GSA 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 pm Troop/Crew	4 6 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	5 4 pm – GSA 976 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship	6 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	7 10 am – First Friday Quilters	8 7 pm – 9 pm AA
<i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> 9	10 5:30 pm GSA 6:30 pm - Trustees 7 pm Troop/Crew	11 5:30 pm – Women's AA	12 4 pm – GSA 976 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck 6:30 Lenten Study	13 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	14 12 pm – Women's Fellowship	15 7 pm – 9 pm AA
<i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> 16	17 5:30 pm GSA 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	18 5:30 pm – Women's AA	19 4 pm – GSA 976 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck 6:30 Lenten Study	20 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	21	22 7 pm – 9 pm AA
<i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 23	24 5:30 pm GSA 7 p.m. Church Council 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	25 5:30 pm – Women's AA	26 4 pm – GSA 976 6 p.m. Lenten Potluck 6:30 Lenten Study	27 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	28	29 7 pm – 9 pm AA
<i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> 30	31 5:30 pm GSA 7 pm Troop/Crew 57					