

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org **January 2025** mhfccucc@gmail.com

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Pledge Cards

If you have not returned your yellow Time and Talent card and/or your blue Pledge Card, please do so as soon as possible so that we can set the budget and know who we can count on for ministries around the church. Extra cards are available from the bulletin table and the office. Thank you so much for giving this your immediate attention to this.

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 2024 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**.

December Women's Fellowship Luncheon/Meeting/Party

Nineteen ladies gathered in the church Fellowship Hall to celebrate the end of the 2024 Women's Fellowship Year! Special guests included Ada County residents Garren Schrom and her friend and driver, Kym!

The room was "Bearly" decorated with a black bear Christmas theme by hostesses Linda Ramsey, Sherry Bush, and Rita Olson. Thank you, ladies!

One of the most delicious ham luncheons that we've had was enjoyed by all. There are some wonderful chefs and bakers in our church!

We had fun with the ice-breaker question...What reindeer do you most identify with?

A short meeting to tie up the year's end was held. Nadine Roberts installed the new (not-so-new) officers for the upcoming year:

President: Nancy Sobien
Vice-President: Gail Banner
Secretary: Susan Broemeling
Treasurer: Linda Ramsey

Special recognition was given to Sherry Bush for all of her behind the scenes work.

A fun white elephant gift exchange was held with lots of smiles.

Many thanks to all the women of this organization...they are the best, nicest, most agreeable women in the world!

Nancy Sobien

January's Women's Fellowship pot-luck luncheon and meeting will be held at noon at the church on **Friday, January 10th**. Upcoming plans for the 2025 year will be discussed.

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: mhfccuc@gmail.com

Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Prayer Breakfast

The Mountain Home Community Black History Committee presents the Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Prayer Breakfast on **Saturday, January 18, 2025**, at The Elks Lodge on 325 South 3rd West. The doors open at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast 9:00 a.m. The donation for the breakfast is \$20.

This year's theme is "Don't Give up the Dream!"

The guest speaker is Dr. Linda Pomerlee of Love Abiding Christian Church of Mountain Home.

RSVP by **January 14th**. Tickets may be purchased from any committee member or call [REDACTED] for more information.

2025 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for 2025 will be on **Sunday, January 12th**, immediately after worship. Please see enclosed budget in preparation for this meeting.

This is an important meeting as we will vote on our final budget for 2024. Please plan to attend so that we may have a quorum.

Office Closed January 20

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the church office will be closed on **Monday, January 20th**.

A different Potluck Sunday

January's Potluck Sunday is **Sunday, January 19th** and it will be a bit different this time. **Mollie Marsh is treating us all to pizza!** So, bring your favorite **salad or dessert** to share with church family and friends. Beverages will be provided. All are welcome to the table.

Thank You

Unity Service

Thank you to all who helped with and/or attended the Ministerial Alliance's Community Unity Service held here on Tuesday, November 26th. Lee Wright and Curtis Carlin were ushers and the Bell Choir played for the attendees.

Over 25 hygiene kits were put together for Share Day with the donated items that were collected. The monetary collection came to \$1,416 that will help the Ministerial Alliance help so many people.

From Nora Lessard

"Dear Friends 11-29-24

Mike and I want to thank the congregation for the delicious Thanksgiving dinner. We enjoyed it immensely. It really warms our hearts having people think of us.

*In Christ's Service,
Nora Lessard"*

Hanging of the Greens

Thank you, Diaconate Board, for making the Sanctuary look so festive and welcoming for the Christmas season.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Greetings Church family!

On the 3rd of December the Church hosted another wonderfully successful, well attended Red Cross blood drive! As usual, it was rather challenging to get all the slots filled, owing to the fact that it was hosted right in the middle of a work day and in the middle of the work week, but we managed to take in 18 units of blood products! Yay, Mtn. Home and yay, Church! A great big thanks and attaboy/attagirl to Eddie Bush and Lee Wright for helping with the setup/teardown, Lorraine Stewart and Lori Levis for running the front desk, and Kenda Schroeder, Vicki Armstrong, Erica Brandt, Kelli Collett, Grace Townsend and Lorraine Stewart for their AMAZING baked goodies! A HUGE thanks to all the Church members who rolled up a sleeve and to Domino's Pizza for the wonderful Pizzas and snacks they donated. You folks were truly the "Hands and Feet" of our Lord. Again, thanks to all who showed up on both sides of the desk for another great drive!

Blessed, Rick Parks

Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar 2024

In keeping with tradition, the Women's Fellowship group, along with many church members, held their Christmas Bazaar on Saturday morning, Dec. 7th.

Customers were greeted with hot coffee and fresh cinnamon rolls made by Judy Case. Thanks, Judy! Later in the morning, slices of many delicious pies were available. Many wonderful homemade items, lovely gift items, and new and used Christmas decorations were available for purchase.

A silent auction of handmade angels, a quilt, 1/3 cord of wood, two paintings was there. Winners were: angels...Ann Carlin & Dorraine Aggen, quilt...Judy Case, 1/3 cord of wood...Nadine Roberts, Lucile Pearce painting...Lee Wright, Sue Pachner painting...Linda Ramsey.

Our total sales (after sales tax) were \$1,933!

And, BIG thanks to everyone who helped set-up, donated items or food, worked the sale, bought something, or helped clean up and pack away items on Monday! Our church rocks!

*Thanks for your support
Women's Fellowship*

Base Tree Lighting Dinner

Wing Chaplain, Chaplain Brandon, sends a heartfelt **Thank You** to all those who generously donated food for the Tree/Menorah lighting and dinner on the Air Base on December 12th. Over 250 families attended and were cheered by the care they received.

Many people took things to the Base Chapel who did not sign the sign-up sheet. Thank You to you anonymous givers of Joy. Those who did sign-up, Thank You, too! These were Erika Brandt, Sherry Bush, Grace Townsend, Gail Banner, Nancy Sobien and Susan Broemeling. Thank you to Ken Andersen for transporting our offerings to the Base Chapel for those who could not get out to the Base that evening.

Many happy, well-fed airmen and family members are very appreciative.

Giving Tree 2024 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 and every one of you throughout the New Year and beyond.

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 22 children to have an awesome Christmas. I would also like to take the time to thank the ladies of Epsilon

Sigma Alpha for helping 15 more children to have a great Christmas. So, in total we were able to help 37 children to have an awesome Christmas. My heart is full because of all of you that selflessly gave to such a worthy cause. It means the world to me to be able to make Christmas wonderful for all these children. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

*Warmest Regards,
Ann Carlin
Giving Tree Coordinator
First Congregational Church*

Christmas Cards

The Church received several Christmas cards from members and friends far and near. Thank you for remembering all of us in this way –The Osgood Family, Wade and Sue Baumgardner, Ken Hill, Jo and Phil Gridley, Frankie Guerre, Stephanie Loewen, and Dena Olson.

From Ronald McDonald House

“Dear member of First Congregational Church,

We were delighted to receive your donation of pop tabs. Recycling them will help us fund important projects around Ronald McDonald House. Families staying at the house travel a great distance for their children’s medical care in Boise. We try to make them feel welcome and comfortable during a difficult time.

Thank you for helping us with this important work.

*Sincerely,
Blythe Fortin”*

This is in recognition of the pop tabs that we have been collecting and delivering all year.

Christmas Fund

Your generous donations to the Veterans of the Cross Christmas Fund this year is \$611. Thank you so much for thinking of others, as you always do.

Christmas Luncheon Thank You

On Sunday, December 15th we had our annual Christmas Luncheon put on by our wonderful Social Committee. We had 55 people in attendance, and a great time of food and fellowship was had by all who attended.

I would like to express my thanks to EVERYONE (to list everyone would take a while), who helped to put the Christmas Luncheon together, and in the clean-up. It would not be possible to get this done without the help of our Social Committee and the wonderful people of our church.

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,
Curtis Carlin
Social Committee Chairman*

Christmas Eve Service

Thank you to the ushers, the choirs, Pastor Deral and all our church family for making the Christmas Eve 2024 worship one of the best we’ve seen in a long time. May God’s Blessings and Christ’s Peace follow us through 2025 and beyond.

Board members

Thank you to all board and committee members past, present, and future. Your time and talent is much appreciated. You are a blessing to the whole church.

The Congregational Youth Christmas Pageant

Once again, the talent sparkles as our youth present "God's Gift to Us". This is a tale of exhausted shoppers who are only concerned with getting the perfect gifts, baking, and serving Christmas dinner. Then when they hear the Christmas carols sung by the choir, they realize that Christmas is more than that. The vision of the manger scene reminds them of the real reason for the season.

The shoppers are Luna Moehn, Lola Moehn and Kassidy Carpentier. The Bible scene performers are Zoe Duty as the Angel; Jocelyn Loosli as Mary; Radley Ringer as Joseph; Rowen Ringer, Regan Ringer and Ruthie Arnold as shepherds.

Santa surprised the kids at the end of the program. Pictures were taken as the kids told Santa what they wanted and Santa gave them gift bags.

Thanks to Vickie Armstrong, Susan Mussler and Diane Venski for helping Betty Ashcraft prepare the kids. A special thanks to Gail Banner and the choir for singing the songs to make our spirits bright.

Merry Christmas to all! May 2025 be even better!

*Blessings to all,
Betty Ashcraft and Vickie Armstrong*

Thank you, Betty, for all your hard work and the sharing of your amazing talents. The Christmas season wouldn’t be the same without all of your creative efforts and cooperation.

Thank You from the Choir!

To the Good Fairy (Linda Ramsey) for the beautiful music themed cups and to Grace for the snack mix for the vocal and bell choirs, thank you so much! We do it out of our love to sing and play praises to our Lord, but we so appreciate the gratitude for all our hours of practice and performance. You are most appreciated!

Pilgrim Cove Camp

Dear Pilgrim Cove Camper Families and Friends,

I wanted to take a minute and thank you for all that each of you have done to make the 2024 camp seasons wonderful and successful. We provide four programs to our church families, which included a youth summer camp, family camp, women's retreat and winter family retreat as well providing safe and sacred space to many other guests seeking to be in an outdoor ministry setting. Many folks came to camp to make our spring and fall workdays and volunteered hundreds of hours to care for our camp.

In 2024 we completed updates to New Rice Lodge, the ADA room in Creech Lodge, continued to work on the new Winthrop Cabin, continued to pay down on our mortgage and have just about completed our Master Plan update for the future of Pilgrim Cove Camp. As we prepare for the 2025 camp season, there are still many wishes and wants we want to accomplish at Pilgrim Cove Camp. This is an opportunity for you to help us to continue to provide the best in outdoor ministry to all that come to Pilgrim Cove Camp.

You can give by mailing a gift to the camp office at Pilgrim Cove Camp, PO Box 867, McCall, ID 83638 or giving directly online at <https://www.pilgrimcovecamp.org/payment-and-donations>. There is an attached flyer that gives you more information about giving opportunities. I personally thank you for your continued support of our mission and ministry.

Merry Christmas,
Jeremy Force
Executive Director – Pilgrim Cove Camp

In Loving Memory

Oledeen West Jourdan Bermensolo
May 25, 1937 – December 22, 2024

Anniversaries for January

1 Nadine and Bob Roberts
20 Vickie Armstrong and Brian Sporleder
31 Linda and Philip Miller

Birthdays for January

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

Special Angels for January

LITURGISTS (Rick Parks)

5 – Wade Baumgardner
12 – Mollie Marsh

19 – Mildred McNeal
26 – Luna Moehn

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up sheet)

5 –
12 – The Foglemans
19 – POTLUCK
26 – The Broemelings

FLOWERS (Sign-up sheet)

5 – Gail Banner
12 – Vickie Armstrong
19 –
26 – Susan Broemeling

USHERS (Curtis Carlin/Lee Wright)

PARAMENTS (Allen Harris)

COMMUNION (Ann Carlin)

From Pastor Deral

Time and again when people are asked about their deepest wish for the coming year, the response has something to do with peace – whether it's to be at peace within oneself, or among family members, in some relationship, or a deep and abiding peace in the world.

The Hebrew word for this harmonious interrelationship among the parts of God's creation is called shalom. That word gets translated into English as 'peace', but it tends to just refer to the absence of trouble or some hostility. Shalom means so much more! It means complete and absolute wholeness – entire, unbroken, full, joyful, flourishing Life. Life as it was meant to be!

Though we won't know this kind of harmonious flourishing Life completely this side of Heaven, we can still pray for it, and work together as God's people to at least catch glimpses of it.

With all this in mind, as we continue in our search for a new full-time pastor, all of us as part of this congregation want to be in prayer for our Lord's leading; our knowing and doing of God's will. We never want to be simply laying out our plans and then asking God to bless them, plotting some strategy then begging God to do our bidding. It's meant to be just the opposite – seeking God's will, and offering ourselves in a conscious dependence and presentation of all we are and have, to Him. In this New Year we're praying for renewal and faithfulness; bringing our affections into line with His; walking obediently together in love and unity; yielding ourselves to His good work of grace; putting into daily practice the truth we believe and hold dear; and reflecting a generous servant spirit to one another and the community that surrounds us.

May God help and bless us as we pray for and live out aspects of a joyful flourishing Life!

Pastor Deral

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 Office Closed 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 After 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 8 a.m. MLK, Jr. Breakfast at Elks Lodge 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 5:30 GSA 1076 7 pm – Church Council 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	28 5:30 pm – Women's AA	29 4 pm – GSA 976	30 5 pm – Choir 6 pm - Bells	31	

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 Valentine's Day 12 pm – Women's Fellowship	15 7 pm – 9 pm AA
<i>Black History Sunday</i> 16 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship POTLUCK	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	