

Mountain Proclamations

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

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

Volume 57 - Issue 5

Report of the Search Committee

As chair of the Search Committee, it has been my privilege and pleasure to work with several great people on this rather daunting task. It's been three years, during which we've revised our profile, researched and interviewed several potential candidates and finally went through the process of vetting and hiring Pastor Derrick Wilcox. That's putting a lot in one little paragraph!

The members of the committee – Linda Ramsey, Mollie Marsh, Kelli Collett, Polly Sanders and Roger Fogleman, all worked so hard to make the profile much more readable and relatable to prospective candidates.

When Derrick sent in his profile, we started the process of checking references, talking with our conference minister, and deciding if we wanted to go forward with an interview. From the time we first zoomed with him, until we met him and his wife, Latasha, we were unanimously positive about his fit with our church. Besides being very personable and down to earth, he has many of the same goals as we, as a church, have expressed. With his background and experience, we felt that he was a good candidate for the position of settled pastor for us. Judging from the reaction of most of you when you met them this past weekend, you all agree.

For those who had a hard time hearing him preach Sunday, we have the microphone problem solved. Derrick will begin his ministry with us on **June 1st**, and we hope that you will all come out to welcome him and Latasha to our community and our church.

While it is so incredibly sad that we have to say goodbye to Deral and Garren, they are getting a well-deserved rest and will always be in our hearts. ***Well done good and faithful servants!***

Gail Banner,
Search Committee Chair

Women's Fellowship meeting

The Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting for May will be in the Fellowship Hall at **12 p.m. on Friday, May 9th**.

This year's theme is "Faith Can Move Mountains" The hostesses will be Kay Eilebrecht

and Judy Case. Mildred McNeal will be the speaker for this meeting.

This is open to all the ladies of the church and their women friends.

Scouting America – Troop 57

Treat Mom to breakfast! On **Saturday, May 10th, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.**, Troop 57 will be happy to make breakfast for you and yours here at First Congregational Church. This annual fund raiser is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 10 and under.

Come on out and show your support for Troop 57!

Mother's Day

Come join us as we celebrate Mother's Day, **Sunday, May 11th**.

Blanket Sunday

Blanket Sunday will be on **Sunday, May 11th, Mother's Day**.

For over 75 years, Church World Service has been helping people of faith bring God's hope and healing to people in the U.S. and around the world. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters. **When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way.**

Please note! We are collecting donations of \$10 a blanket. We are not collecting blankets themselves. These blankets are special blankets that are water resistant, warm and durable.

For more about what Church World Services does, go to www.cwsglobal.org. They do so much more than blankets.

Last Sunday School Celebration

On **Sunday, May 18th**, we will celebrate the last Sunday School class for the season with cake **AND a potluck barbecue** after worship. Christian Ed and Curtis Carlin will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, and buns. **We bring yummy side dishes and desserts to share.** All are welcome to the table!

Christian Education Updates

The Christian Education update will be in the June Mountain Proclamations.

Christian Education Board: Betty Ashcraft, Susan Mussler, Vickie Armstrong, Sande Moehn

Thank you

From Joe B. and Mildred McNeal

Joe B. & Mildred McNeal
950 N. 10th East
Mountain Home, ID 83647

First Congregational Church (UCC)
515 E. 15th North
P.O. Box 659
Mountain Home, ID 83647

April 17, 2025

**Pastor Deral, Garren, Women Fellowship,
and Sister and Brothers in Christ,**

Words cannot express the love, energy and dedication shared when you hosted an Open House in celebration of our 70th Wedding Anniversary. Joe and I are reaching out to thank all of you who participated. The Church Family is very important to us and provide love and encouragement that help us to get where we are today. A kind deed is like water for a flower. It makes the heart bloom. May life grant each of you a reflection of the kindness you have shown to us! Thanks for planting over the years a garden in our hearts.

Grace and Blessings to You, With love and gratitude,

Joe B. McNeal and Mildred F. McNeal

Spring Clean

We had a very successful annual Church Spring Clean-up on Saturday, April 12th. The Trustees would like to thank those who came out to help, both inside the church and outdoors.

At least sixteen workers showed up, including four from the various Scout groups that meet at

our church. Scout Leaders Nakeia Tucker; Scout Mom, Amanda Grodi; Scout members Ryan Grodi and Quinn Rodrigues. From our membership was Lars Hansen, Wade Baumgardner, Roger Fogleman, Eddie Bush, Tina Hutton, Curtis Carlin, Sherry Bush, Grace Townsend, Ian Thomas, Frank Marsh, Lee and Ellie Wright, and Gene Mussler.

I'd also like to give a special thanks to Judy Case for spending several hours with the Rose Garden over the past few weeks.

*Gene Mussler,
Trustee Chair*

Easter Lilies

Thank you to all who brought Easter Lilies to the church to share with the church family. The Sanctuary was beautiful.

A special Thank You to Lee Wright who came in several times during Holy Week to pluck the stamens off and trimmed tired blossoms so they continued to look beautiful.

Easter Breakfast

We had our annual Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 20th, and it was a huge success. We served pancakes, omelets, sliced ham, etc. A great time was had by all 42 people in attendance.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to our cooks Rick Bush, Mike Moehn and our omelet master Joe B. McNeal. Our servers Eddie Bush, Kevin Case and Matthew Lobrovich. These gentlemen put on one heck of a breakfast, and no one went away hungry. So again, THANK YOU to all of you for all your hard work.

Thank you to Curtis Carlin, Lars Hansen, Diane Venski & grandkids, and Frank Marsh who stayed and helped with the cleanup, it made the job go by that much quicker.

A special thank you goes out to Curtis Carlin who organized the event for the 22nd year, and to Lee Wright for supplying all the beautiful flowers that adorned the centers of each table in the fellowship hall.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Ann Carlin*

Easter Egg Hunt

Easter morning brought our church families together for the sunrise service followed by a delicious breakfast. All of the children were filled with anticipation for the annual Easter egg hunt and were not disappointed. The Moehn

girls filled and scattered lots of eggs for the kids to gather. The Easter egg hunt is one of the most joyous times for the children and something we look forward to always. Thanks to all who helped stuff eggs and donated money for the candy.

Bless you all!
Christian Education Board

Three Crosses

Thank you to Lee Wright and Ian Thomas for placing the three crosses on the church lawn for Holy Week and beyond. The symbol of hope is an inspiration to many.

Maurie Townsend Memorial Underwear Offering

The Maurie Townsend Underwear Offering went quite well this year! There were 22 packages totaling 139 individual undergarments, and a large box of Depends. Thank you to everyone for contributed to this worthy project. Your caring is most appreciated.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The final total for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering has come to \$346.25 to be sent to the national church office to be used in a myriad of ways. This is significantly lower than in past years. We'll do better next year!!

Thank you, Everyone, for your continued generosity and concern for those near and far.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Greetings Beloved Church Family!

On the 22nd of April 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 22 units of blood products! Thanks to Matt Lobrobich and Roger Fogleman, we filled all 4 Power Red appointment slots! Yay Mtn. Home and yay Church! A great big thanks and attaboy/attagirl to Eddie, Matthew and Lee Wright for helping with the setup/teardown, and Lorraine Stewart, Tina Hutton and Lori Levis for running the front desk. And once again Domino's Pizza for their AMAZING support with some wonderful Pizza and Cinnamon Knots! A HUGE thanks to all the Church members who rolled up a sleeve, 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

From Kelli Collett

To all who gave so generously to my spring time project, THANK YOU. Your kindness and love is so much appreciated.

Love, Kelli Collett

Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale 2025

Thank you everyone for making our 2025 Women's Fellowship Annual Rummage Sale a big success! We had a great number of members and helpers for set-up and clean-up. And thanks to everybody for donating and buying goods! We took in approximately \$1,200 which will go into our general fund for use during the upcoming years.

Now we look forward to our next big community event --- the 2025 Christmas Bazaar, Dec. 6th. Time to get started crafting items to sell!

Dear Pilgrim Cove Camp Family

I want to tell you about a change to the 2025 Camping Program. The camping schedule has not changed. The camp programs for 2025 will include UCC Youth Summer Camp July 20-26, 2025, Women's Retreat July 28-31, 2025, and the work weekends are May 16-17 and October 10-11, 2025.

There is a new 2025 Summer Camp Flyer that has been mailed to our church. The flyer shows a new Youth Summer Camp fee schedule that is adjusted for family income. We are trying to make camp more affordable to the children of low-income families. A minimum of a \$50 deposit is due at the time of registration and the balance is due prior to the event. Our church has scholarship opportunities to help with the cost of the UCC Youth Summer Camp.

To register for the youth summer camp or for another program opportunity, or to learn more details on our camping programs, you can simply go online to pilgrimcovecamp.org. Registration and payments can be made online at this website. You can also email the camp office at director@pilgrimcovecamp.org or call 208-634-5555 for information.

We still need assistance to make our summer camp possible. We STILL need leaders and counselors for our camps.

Thank you for your continued support to make the Pilgrim Cove ministry possible. I encourage you to keep watch for future announcements concerning Pilgrim Cove on their website and on their Facebook page "Pilgrim Cove Camp".

Jay Leonard

Upcoming Events

Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday comes on **Sunday, June 8th**, this year.

Strengthen the Church

The Strengthen the Church Offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. We will receive the Strengthen the Church offering on **Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025**.

May Anniversaries

- 1 – Gail and Roger Banner
- 2 – Rebeca and Bradley Arnold
- 5 – Jay and Karen Townsend
- 9 – Merrilee and John Hiler
- 20 – Joyce and Harris Allgood
- 27 – Kristy and Jim Blanksma
- 31 – Patricia Urbick and Chris Rowl

May Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 4 – Luna Moehn | 14 – Pedro Celaya |
| 4 – Gene Mussler | 15 – Lincoln Case |
| 5 – John Hiler | 19 – Rose Ann Tagg |
| 9 – Curtis Carlin | 23 – John DiGuido |
| 13 – Nancy Mason | 28 – Jeremy Loosli |
| 13 – Marlene Osborn | 29 – Kathy Mori |

Special Angels for May

LITURGISTS (Rick Parks)

- 4 – Grace Townsend
- 11 – Heidi Harris
- 18 – Mollie Marsh
- 25 – Eddie Bush

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up Sheet)

- 4 – Curtis Carlin
- 11 – Curtis Carlin
- 18 – POTLUCK BBQ
- 25 – Barb and Roger Fogleman

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

- 4 – Doreen Solum
- 11 –
- 18 – Helena DeWeerd
- 25 –

USHERS (Kelli Collett)

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Lee Wright)

From Pastor Deral

You may have heard the story or seen the video of the herd of elephants at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, during the recent 5.2-magnitude earthquake there.

Footage from the park captures the moment the earthquake hits, and shows 5 elephants standing together just before the ground begins to tremble. Within seconds, the herd splits in different directions, but the adult elephants quickly regroup, moving to form a tight circle around the two youngest. Once gathered, the adults remain on high alert, ears wide and twitching, scanning for any further threats, even as the shaking subsides.

The curator of mammals at the park said, “They sort of freeze as they gather information about where the danger is, and form what is known as an ‘alert circle’. They position the calves in the center while the older elephants face outward.” They all stood alert, staying steady and firm in their love, care, and protection of one another.

This may be one of the last articles I write as your pastor, so this is an article of encouragement and love. The apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippians: “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come to see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you **stand firm** in the one Spirit.” (1:27)

All through his letters Paul encourages his fellow believers to “stand firm”. *Stand Firm* – “in the Lord” (I Thessalonians 3:6-8). *Stand Firm* – “in the liberty of Christ” (Galatians 5:1). *Stand Firm* – “in the faith” (I Corinthians 16:31). *Stand Firm* – “in the Scriptures” (II Thessalonians 2:15).

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, **stand firm**. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

With much love and prayer –

Pastor Deral

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5 pm – Choir 6 pm – Bells	2 10 am – First Friday Quilters	3 7 pm – 9 pm AA
4 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship w/Communion	5 5:30 pm GSA 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	6 5:30 pm – Women's AA	7 1 p.m. PEO 4 pm – GSA 976	8 5 pm – Choir 6 pm – Bells	9 12 pm – Women's Fellowship	10 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. Troop 57 Pancake Breakfast fund raiser 7 pm – 9 pm AA
<i>Mother's Day</i> Blanket Sunday 1 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship AW Christian Ed meeting	12 5:30 pm GSA 6:30 pm - Trustees 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	13 5:30 pm – Women's AA	14 4 pm – GSA 976	15 5 pm – Choir 6 pm – Bells	16	17 7 pm – 9 pm AA
18 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship End of Sunday School season Potluck and BBQ	19 5:30 pm GSA 7 p.m. Church Council 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	20 5:30 pm – Women's AA	21 1 p.m. PEO 4 pm – GSA 976	22 5 pm – Choir 6 pm – Bells	23	24 7 pm – 9 pm AA
25 11 am Worship	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27 5:30 pm – Women's AA	28	29 5 pm – Choir 6 pm – Bells	30	31 7 pm – 9 pm AA

June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11 am Worship	2 7 p.m. Diaconate Board 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	3 5:30 pm – Women's AA	4	5	6 10 am – First Friday Quilters	7 7 pm – 9 pm AA
8 11 am Worship	9 6:30 pm - Trustees 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	10 5:30 pm – Women's AA	11	12	13	14 Flag Day 7 pm – 9 pm AA
15 Father's Day 11 am Worship	16 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	17 5:30 pm – Women's AA	18	19	20	21 7 pm – 9 pm AA
22 11 am Worship	23 7 p.m. Church Council 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	24 5:30 pm – Women's AA	25	26	27	28 7 pm – 9 pm AA
29 11 am Worship	30 7 pm Troop/Crew 57					