

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org

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mhfccucc@gmail.com

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Poinsettia Dedications

Beginning **Sunday, November 30th** 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 17th** Forms are available from the back table or the office.

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!!

It is that time of year again, the Giving Tree is in full swing. If you would like a tag or two, please see me either before or after church every Sunday starting Nov. 9th through Dec. 14th. I have 21 tags, 10 boys, 11 girls.

ALL TAGS MUST BE BACK BY DEC. 14TH so that they can be dropped off with the Giving Tree Program by Dec. 15th to be distributed to kids in our community.

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP GIFTS!!!

*Sincerely,
Ann Carlin*

Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar

The Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar will be held on **Saturday, December 6th from 8 a.m. until 12 noon**. All members of the church are asked to participate!

Set up will be on Friday, December 5th at 11:30 a.m. Please make drop in and help set up for as long as you can. The ladies have a great deal of work to do to set this wonderful event up.

Fresh cinnamon rolls will be available along with slices of pie with coffee, tea, or hot chocolate. 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.

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 12th**. Hostesses are Linda Ramsey and Rita Olson.

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 2026 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!

Red Cross Blood Drive

Our quarterly **Red Cross Blood Drive** will be on **Tuesday, December 16th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

If you would like to help, check people in or serve snacks sometime during the day, please contact Rick Parks.

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 **Sunday, December 21st 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

"When they saw the star, they were filled with joy." —Matthew 2:10

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

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.

We, here at Mountain Home First Congregational, UCC, will be taking this offering starting on **Sunday, December 14th and concluding on Christmas Eve**. Special envelopes will be provided in the worship bulletin or in the pew pockets on each row.

Christmas Luncheon

The Christmas Luncheon will be on **Sunday, December 21st** 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 **Wednesday, December 24th**.

Office Christmas Schedule

The office will be **closed** on Thursday, December 25th and Thursday, January 1st. If you have an emergency for the pastor, you may call Pastor Derrick [REDACTED]. If you need the office, you may call Jennifer Andersen at (208)284-9694.

Thank you

Thanksgiving Harvest Decorations

A huge thank you goes out to Lee Wright and his crew for the beautiful harvest decorations that are in our sanctuary and Fellowship Hall; they always do such a beautiful job. Those who helped set-up the decorations were Lee Wright, Eddie and Sherry Bush, Aaron Mattison, and of course Miss Ellie. Items were also donated. Mike and Rick Bush donated corn, cornstalks and some squash, Rita Olson donated wheat & the vase the wheat is in and a jar of grain, and Kelli Collett donated a jar of dried onions. Please be sure to thank these wonderful people for taking the time to make our sanctuary and Fellowship look so amazing during this time of year.

*Sincerely,
Curtis L. Carlin
Diaconate Board Chairman*

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 \$1,665! Proceeds will be used to support church projects and fund community outreach donations.

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

Thanks, too, to Susan Broemeling for donating one beautiful glass piece, Linda Ramsey for her donation of 2 cloth pie carriers and Jennifer Andersen for the iron-rich, high fiber cherry "pie". 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 2025

Several good folks gathered in the Fellowship Hall at church on Nov. 17th and with love and thought put together 34 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 23rd, 2025. This wonderful night of food and fellowship started off with a prayer done by Pastor Derrick Wilcox. There were 65 people present, and 7 shut-in meals were delivered for a total of 72 meals; a great time was had by all. The festivities were put together by Curtis Carlin and his crew of Thanksgiving helpers. A huge THANK YOU to Erica Brant for taking the reins while Curtis is recovering from knee surgery. The cooks for the turkeys and hams were Erica Brant, Sherry Bush, Ann Carlin, Allen Harris, Betty Ashcraft and Sandra Moehn. The beautiful decorations were done by Lee Wright, Curtis Carlin, Eddie and Sherry Bush, and Rick Bush. Delivery Drivers were Betty Ashcraft and Al Foster and Allen and Heidi Harris w/Lola Moehn.

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,
Ann Carlin*

Ink Cartridges

If you ever wondered if those ink cartridges you bring in do any good, they do!!! All those ink cartridges were taken to Staples and the credits made it possible to get a full set of colored ink for the HP printer for \$1.05. The price on this ink set is \$69. YES, those ink cartridges help! Thank you to all who bring in their empty ink cartridges.

End of year giving

If you want credit in **2025** 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 you 2026 giving statement.

Pilgrim Cove Camp

Greetings Camper Families and Friends,

It is time again for the next edition of the Cove Chronicles. There has been much going on at camp this year and here are just a few of the highlights. This was one of our busiest summers ever, serving many children, youth, families and retreat guests and campers. Alan Creech Lodge received a new floor and fresh paint, Curtis Cottage is almost finished, our updated master plan was approved and we are paying down our mortgage by \$268,000.

All of this is possible because of all of the continued support from all of you and your generosity. I hope everyone realizes the ministry and mission made possible through our camp. I see on a regular basis how camps and retreats give folks the opportunity to have rest, recreation, sabbath and fun at our camp. Pilgrim Cove Camp is truly a sacred and wonderful place and I thank each and every person for their continued support of our camp.

I hope each of you have a wonderful holiday season and we will see you again at camp. Grace and blessing to each of you.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Force

**Jeremy N Force - Executive Director
Pilgrim Cove Camp & Retreat Center
Phone: 208-634-5555
Web: www.pilgrimcovecamp.org**

Pledges for 2025

If you were not able to get your pledge in before the Pledge Blessing on **Sunday, November 23th**, 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.

From Ken Hill

"11 Nov 2025 Tues, Veterans Day

Hello Church Family,

I pray everything is well with everyone. We are looking forward to the winter Holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas and being at home around family instead of at work . . . (don't get me wrong I love my co-workers/friends but) as we all get older it gains more importance.

I especially miss all of you.

Enjoy the time with Family and Loved ones.

Sincerely,
Ken and Mary Hill”

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/go/GYKFdos>

Upcoming Events

All Boards and Committees

Year-end Annual Reports are due in the office by **Thursday, January 8th** earlier if possible, so they can be prepared for distribution at our Annual Meeting on **Sunday, January 18th**.

2026 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is on **Sunday, January 18, 2026**. This is the time when we review all the happenings of 2025 and finalize the budget for 2026.

Birthdays in December

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2 – Richard Bush | 25 – Latasha Carroll |
| 15 – Todd Paille | 26 – Bud Weise |
| 15 – Lee Wright | 28 – Ethan Townsend |
| 20 – Regan Hinger | 31 – Carrie DiGuido |
| 22 – Truman Parker | |

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 (Polly Sanders)

- 7 – Christine Negri
14 – Susan Mussler
21 – Polly Sanders
28 – Rita Olson

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (sign-up sheet)

- 7 –
14 – Vickie Armstrong and Brian Sporleder
21 – Christman Potluck Luncheon
28 – Becky Hall

FLOWERS (sign-up sheet)

Christmas Décor

ADVENT CANDLE (Curtis Carlin)

- 7 – Rita and Grandkids
14 -
21 – the Choir
24 – the Ralls Family

USHERS (Lee Wright and Polly Sanders)

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Susan Walker)

From Pastor Derrick

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year, greeting to our First Congregational Church family and community. It's a wonderful time of the year for many people. As people travel to see love ones, and give gifts for the holiday season, but let us also remember those who are struggling and dealing with holiday depression.

Many times, people who have to endure the holiday seasons deal with loneliness, depression, grief and sadness.

It is my sincere prayer that everyone has a blessed and safe holiday season but also consider someone else who might be going through a hard time.

This Advent season let's remember to focus on Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Give hope to someone, bring joy to someone life, provide peace in stressful situations and love unconditionally.

*God Bless,
Pastor Derrick & Latasha Wilcox*



December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 7 p.m. Diaconate Board mts 7 p.m. BSA	2 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	3 1 p.m. PEO 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077	4 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	5 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Bazaar Set-up	6 8 a.m. – Noon Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar 7 p.m. AA
2nd Sunday of Advent 7 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion	8 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 6:30 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. BSA	9 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	10 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077	11 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	12 Noon Women's Fellowship potluck and mtg. BSA Lock-in 5 p.m. through	13 7 p.m. AA BSA Lock-in 10 a.m.
3rd Sunday of Advent 14 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	15 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 7 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. BSA	16 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	17 1 p.m. PEO 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077	18 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	19	20 7 p.m. AA
4th Sunday of Advent 21 NO Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Christmas Potluck Dinner	22 Christ	23 5:30 p.m. Women's AA mas	24 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight vaca	25 Christmas Office Closed tion	26	27 7 p.m. AA
28 11 a.m. Worship	29 Christ	30 5:30 p.m. Women's AA mas	31 New Year's Eve vaca			

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	3 7 p.m. AA
4 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion	5 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 7 p.m. Diaconate Board mts 7 p.m. BSA	6 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	7 1 p.m. PEO 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077	8 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells Annual Reports Due	9 Noon Women's Fellowship potluck and mtg	10 7 p.m. AA
11 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Christian Ed mtg	12 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 6:30 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. BSA	13 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	14 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077	15 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	16	17 7 p.m. AA
18 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Annual Meeting	Office Closed 19 M L K Day 7 p.m. Church Council	20 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	21 1 p.m. PEO 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077	22 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	23	24 7 p.m. AA
25 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Outreach mtg	26 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 7 p.m. BSA	27 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	28 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077	29 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	30	31 7 p.m. AA