

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org **January 2026** mhfccucc@gmail.com

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These Days

As of this printing, the *These Days* devotional booklets have not arrived. A notice will go out as soon as we get them.

Our new custodian

Please welcome Tina Hammond as our new custodian. She begins on January 1st.

Thank you so much, Kay Eilebrecht, for your years of dedicated service – since 2022.

All Boards and Committees

Year-end 2025 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**.

Women's Fellowship Meeting

NO MEETING WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY! A much-deserved rest will take its place!

Any questions? Please contact me!

Nancy Sobien, [REDACTED]

All women of the church *and community* are invited to attend February's meeting. 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 17, 2026**, 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 \$25.

This year's theme is "Where Do We Go from Here"

The guest speaker is our very own Pastor Derrick Wilcox.

RSVP by **January 11th**. Tickets may be purchased from any committee member or call [REDACTED] for more information.

2026 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for 2026 will be on **Sunday, January 18th**, immediately after worship.

This is an important meeting as we will vote on our final budget for 2026. Please plan to attend so that we may have a quorum.

Potluck Sunday

January's Potluck Sunday is **Sunday, January 18th**. Bring your favorite potluck-sized dish to share. This can be a main course, a side dish, a salad, or dessert. Beverages will be provided. All are welcome to the table.

Office Closed January 19

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the church office will be closed on **Monday, January 19th**.

Video Etiquette

We have been recording and posting our worship services on YouTube for many years now. With so many new folks joining us, we felt it was time to do a refresher on video etiquette.

At the beginning of the service, we ask for announcements. These are upcoming events that we would like the church and community to know about.

Later in the service, we pause the video (stop the video) and we share our Joys and Concerns. This is when we share more personal information that we don't want the whole wide world to know. Health information, trips, passing aways, *results of a past event* – all these things can be shared during this time. This will ensure the safety of everyone's personal information out on the web.

Part time job opening

The position of Church Secretary is coming open. Jennifer's retirement date is December 31, **2026**. However, it will take 3 – 6 months to train someone for the job, so resumé's can be

submitted anytime. She can retire earlier if the new secretary is ready earlier.

A copy of the job description is available from the office.

Thank You

From Children's House Montessori

“Dear First Congregational Church,

Thank you so much for being such an important part of our Pie Social! Your church is such a warm and beautiful gathering environment.

Fondly,
Children's House Montessori”

Children's House is one of the many entities who use our facilities for there events. Their Pie Social was on Friday, November 21st.

Unity Service

Thank you to all who helped with and/or attended the Ministerial Alliance's Community Unity Service held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on Haskett Tuesday, November 25th. Eddie Bush and Ted Solum helped set up the bells and our Bell Choir played for this event. Pastor Derrick delivered one of the messages. A wonderful service by all accounts.

From Nora Lessard

“ ‘I gotta hat full of happy and a heart full of thanks!’ Mike and I can't thank you enough for Thanksgiving dinner. It was delicious. You are a wonderful church family.

*In Christ's love,
Nora Lessard”*

Hanging of the Greens

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

Red Cross Blood Drive

Greetings Beloved Church family!

On the 16th of December the Church hosted a wonderfully successful, well attended Red Cross blood drive. We were able to take in 23 units of blood products, our best yet! Yay Mtn. Home and Yay Church! A great big thanks and attaboy/attagirl to Lori, Tina, Lorraine, Eddie, and anyone else who I might have missed for the great help they provided in the setup, operation, and closing down of the event, and a HUGE thanks to all the Church members who rolled up

a sleeve. You were truly the "Hands and Feet" of our Lord. Domino's Pizza once again knocked it out of the park; they LOADED us up with wonderful Pizza and Goodies for the event! Again, thanks to all who showed up on both sides of the desk for the great drive!

*I remain Blessed and, in His Service,
Rick Parks*

Editor's Note: Thank you, Rick Parks. This event would not have come back to us if it had not been for the work you put in to bringing it back. Thank you for the heart you put into the church and to those in need of that which we can give.

Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar 2025

In keeping with tradition, the Women's Fellowship group, along with many church members, held their Christmas Bazaar on Saturday morning, Dec. 6th.

Many thanks to everyone who helped donate, set-up, bake, buy and clean-up for our Annual Christmas Bazaar! We had lots of help, wonderful items to sell, fun silent auction items, delicious cinnamon rolls, pies and baked goods! Our total profit was around \$2000!

Thanks to the super men who lent their muscles moving tables, shelves, boxes and especially to Eddie for sweeping up after us!

*Thanks for your support
Women's Fellowship*

Giving Tree 2025 Thank You

I started working with the Giving Tree Program through the Chamber of Commerce here in Mountain Home in 2005, and in those 21 years 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 21 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 (via email), Wade and Sue Baumgardner, Linda Thomsen, Dena Olson, Phil and Jo Gridley, and Ken Hill.

With his beautiful card, Ken Hill included a note.

“Church Family,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It’s truly a blessing to keep in touch with you. As we end this year I look back at its rewarding and challenging times. But, it’s all good, because of family near and far have been there for us.

Miss you and Love you All,
Ken and Mary”

Christmas Fund

Your generous donations to the Veterans of the Cross Christmas Fund this year is \$416. This offering helps retired pastors and lay leaders when they find themselves in a time of need.

Thank you so much for thinking of others, as you always do.

To Girl Scout Troop 1064

In a show of appreciation for giving them space to meet every week, Girl Scout Troop 1064 blessed us with many handcrafted cards and some sweet and salty treats. These treats will be served at one of the Fellowship Hours or at the potluck. The cards may be viewed in the Fellowship Hall, on the table in the corner of the accordion doors.

Thank you, Girl Scout Troop 1064!

Christmas Luncheon Thank You

On Sunday, December 21st we had our annual Christmas Luncheon put on by our wonderful Social Committee. We had 88 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 (listing everyone would take a while), who helped to put the Christmas Luncheon together, and in the clean-up after it was over. It would not be possible to get this

done efficiently and effectively without the help of our Social Committee and the wonderful people of our church.

*Wishing you a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,
Curtis Carlin
Social Committee Chairman*

Christmas Eve Service

So many people helped make the 2025 Christmas Eve Candlelight service a special one.

The readers did a wonderful job sharing the birth narrative. Thank you to Gail Banner, Susan Broemeling, Heidi Harris, Vickie Armstrong, Curtis Carlin and Betty Ashcraft.

The Bell Choir, directed by Leela Meohn, blessed us with 2 anthems. The Choral Choir, directed by Gail Banner and accompanied by Patty Dalrymple on the flute, blessed us with a very relaxing song. Thank you, Mollie Marsh, Lori Levis and Carol Smith, for adding your voices to the choir. Thank you to Pastor Derrick for leading us in a beautiful Christmas chorus accompanying himself on the piano. The whole congregation enjoyed many, many Christmas hymns.

The Sanctuary was well decorated with the donated poinsettias. Thank you to all who brought these in to be enjoyed by all.

The ushers, Lee Wright, Rick Bush, Curtis and Ann Carlin, saw to it that everyone had candles and a place to sit. Thank you so much.

And, definitely, thank you Pastor Derrick for leading us in a wonderful, mindful meditation to help us on our way into the new year.

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.

Thank You from the Choir!

Thank you to the ones who blessed the choir members with a beautiful card and ornament. Your show of support is much appreciated.

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.

Pilgrim Cove Camp

Dear Pilgrim Cove Board and Churches,

I wanted to take a minute and thank you for all that each of you have done to make the 2025 camp season wonderful and successful. We provide programs to our church families and provide 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 2025 we completed updates to the Paddock staff cabin, new flooring in the Creech Lodge, continued to work on the new Curtis Cottage and Kloss Encounters cabins, paid down \$268,000 on our mortgage with a large gift from the Pocatello UCC, updated our Articles of Incorporation and our Master Plan for the future of Pilgrim Cove Camp.

As we prepare for the 2026 camp season, there are still many wishes and wants to accomplish at Pilgrim Cove Camp. I want to personally thank everyone that has made all these accomplishments possible for outdoor ministry to all that come to Pilgrim Cove Camp. Without your hard work and generosity, what we have accomplished would not be possible. I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas holiday and a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas,
Jeremy Force – Executive Director

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

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 David Olson
6 Skip Sobien	21 Angelina Pearsall
7 Kevin “Osi” Osgood	22 Kevin Case
11 Richard Townsend	23 Lee Kaufman
14 Charles Olson	31 Heather Osgood
15 Susan Broemeling	31 Lorraine Stewart
18 Frank Marsh	

Special Angels for January

LITURGISTS (Polly Sanders)

4 – Betty Ashcraft
11 – Heidi Harris
18 – Grace Townsend

25 – Rick Bush

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up sheet)

4 – Kay Eilebrecht
11 – Betty Ashcraft
18 – POTLUCK
25 – NEED VOLUNTEER

FLOWERS (Sign-up sheet)

4 – Nadine Roberts
11 – Barb Fogleman
18 – NEED VOLUNTEER
25 – NEED VOLUNTEER

USHERS (Lee Wright)

PARAMENTS (Allen Harris)

COMMUNION (Susan Walker)

From Pastor Derrick

Greeting All,

As we enter this Christmas season, transition into a new year. We are all grateful and appreciative that the blessings of Christ our savior choose us to witness another year of celebration and love.

The Bible says: Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

As we embark on a new year may it be filled with God’s love, joy and peace.

Remember that regardless of what you are dealing with let you hope remain in God and never forget the Christ loves you so much.

God Bless,
Pastor Derrick and Latasha Wilcox

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day Office Closed 1 – 4 p.m. Scouts planning meeting	2	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 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters NO Women's Fellowship meeting	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 8 a.m. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast at Elks Lodge 7 p.m. AA
18 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Annual Meeting POTLUCK after 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

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship with Communion	2 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 7 p.m. Diaconate Board mts 7 p.m. BSA	3 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	4 1 p.m. PEO 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077	5 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	6 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	7 7 p.m. AA
8 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Christian Ed mtg	9 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 6:30 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. BSA	10 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	11 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077	12 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	13 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting	14 Valentine's Day 7 p.m. AA
15 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship	16 President's Day Office Closed 7 p.m. Church Council	17 6 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	<i>Ash</i> <i>Wednesday</i> 18 1 p.m. PEO 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday service	19 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	20	21 7 p.m. AA
22 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Outreach mtg	23 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1076 7 p.m. BSA	24 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	25 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout troop 1077	26 5:30 p.m. Girl Scout 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	27	28 7 p.m. AA