

Mountain Proclamations

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

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

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Summer Worship Schedule

Our summer worship schedule has begun. Worship is at 11 a.m. but there is no Sunday School during the summer.

Communion will be served on the first Sunday of June and August. Sunday school will begin again on Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 10 a.m.

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*

A Heartfelt Thank You from Pastor Deral and Garren

As we close our ministry with First Congregational Church, Garren and I want to express our deep appreciation and love for you all. It has been an absolute privilege to serve our Lord with you. You are a generous, caring, faithful, loving people.

From our first Sunday with you we had a deep sense that God loves you and has a bright future and a hope for you. You have a long history in Mountain Home, and we trust that there is a great future of promise and growth.

We thank the adult Sunday School class for the sweet surprise of card and gifts before our last class session; and our thanks, too, for the wonderful barbeque lunch and well-wishes on our last Sunday. It's been a joy to share God's Word with you all week by week. Our worship and fellowship with you all touches us in a profound way, leaving us with memories that we will cherish.

It's been a pleasure to work with Jennifer and Grace, and to serve with all of our congregational leaders during these three years. We pray that Pastor Derrick and his wife, Latasha, will enjoy the same kind of support and love.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the Day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:3-6

May our Lord continue to bless and keep you in His care. With love –

Pastor Deral and Garren

Welcome to the Church Family

A warm welcome to Jan Chaney, who joined the church on Sunday, May 18, 2025. She has been attending for several months and decided to make her association with us official.

Welcome to this family of God, Jan. We are happy to have you here.

Flowers and Fellowship for July and August

If you would like to provide or set out **flowers on the altar or host Fellowship Hour** sometime during the month of **July and/or August**, check the sign-up sheets at the back of the Sanctuary or contact the church office.

Don't forget . . . You may donate money for flowers if you don't wish to do the actual arranging. The suggested donation for altar flowers is \$30 dollars. The money will be used by one of our very talented volunteers to purchase flowers, do the arranging of them and placing them on the altar. Your name will go in the bulletin as the donor of the flowers.

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 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**.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship is taking a well-deserved break for the summer. Their next *planned* meeting is scheduled for **Friday, September 12, 2025 at noon** in the Fellowship Hall.

Watch the bulletins, newsletter and *In the Loop* for any spontaneous outings that might come up throughout the summer.

Coins for Stamps

Have you received a card of some sort in the past years from the Card Elves, the Outreach Committee, or the church? Almost everybody has and I'm sure it put a smile on your face.

Women's Fellowship is asking the congregation to help out. In the back of the Sanctuary is an adorable old post office mail box made into a bank. Frankie Guerre donated it so we can help the Outreach Committee with the purchase of stamps.

What we are asking is, as you pass by it each Sunday, just reach into your pocket or purse and pull out a couple of coins – pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, half dollars if you have them – and drop them into the bank! You'll walk out of there lighter, in both weight and spirit!

Thank you!

Summer Music

With the Chancel Choir taking their well-deserved summer break, it would be wonderful to have other musicians or singers add to our worship time by sharing their talents with us on any given Sunday during the summer.

If you or someone you know would like to share this talent with us, please contact the church office to let us know which on Sunday you would like to do this.

It's nomination time

If you are interested in serving on one of the boards or committees in **2026**, or serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact the church office at 587-4969 and we will give your name and number to the Church Council and someone will contact you.

If you want information about which boards and committees will need new members and what those boards or committees do, please contact the church office and we can get that information to you.

Volunteer Needed

The church would like a couple more volunteers to help "capture" the worship services on video and post them to YouTube. We have the equipment and will train you! Please contact the church office, Eddie Bush or Ken Andersen, if you are interested. Thank you!!

Juneteenth

Join us for the annual Juneteenth celebration at Carl Miller Park, where everyone is invited to come together in unity for free food and fun! The celebration is on **Saturday, June 21st, from noon until 8 p.m.**

Reminder!

The July and August editions of the *Mountain Proclamations* come out as one edition. If you have any information, articles, or Special Angels to be included in the **August** edition as well as the July one, please make sure that it is into the office by **1 p.m. Thursday, June 19th**.

Thank you

Mother's Day Gifts

Thank you to the Outreach Committee and the Diaconate Board for the gifts that were given out on Mother's Day, May 11th. Your thoughtfulness and hard work are much appreciated by many!

Blanket Offering

The Blanket offering donations collected on Sunday, May 12th will provide over 57 people in crisis with a blanket to wrap up in or build a shelter with. Thank you all so much for your donations totaling \$573, which is \$231 more than last year. Way to go, Generous Church Family!!!

El-Ada says Thank You!!!!

El-Ada wishes to thank the First Congregational Church family for the generous donation of brand-new undergarments for all genders and sizes. They have had many families coming lately in need of them.

Your kindness and generosity have given comfort to many in need. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Acolytes for the 2024/2025 Sunday School Season

Thank you to Luna and Lola Meohn; Racheal and Zoe Duty; Jocelyn Loosli; Lincoln and Landon Case; Regan, Radley, and Rowen Hinger; Kassidy Carpentier; and Axel Thompon for ringing the morning bell and opening and closing our worship services with the lighting of the candles for the 2024/2025 season. If any names are missing from this list, please know that your participation is much appreciated.

End of Sunday School Barbecue

Thank you to all who brought wonderful side dishes and desserts to share at the End of Sunday School potluck barbecue celebration!

We especially want to thank Curtis Carlin and Mike Moehn for cooking up those hot dogs and hamburgers for all to enjoy.

What a blessing you all are!!

To the Choir members and Accompanist

Many thanks to all the ladies who sang in the choir this past year! Also to Dorraine Aggen and Connie Bettencourt and Dorreen Solum for accompanying us. It's a joy to be able to sing praises to our Lord, and I hope that more of you will join us in September! We can change practice hours to accommodate anyone who works during the day!

Also, so much gratitude to all the bell players! We have more than one octave of bells and would love to have some more ringers! If you read music, you can play bells! We have a great time and would love to have you!

Blessings to all!
Gail

To Gail Banner

These choirs could not have happened without the efforts of Gail Banner directing the Chancel Choir the Bell Choir. Gail, your talents have truly added to our worship services. Thank you so much.

Flower Bed Care

Thank you, Lee Wright, Linda Ramsey, Gail Banner, Judy Case, and Matthew Lobrovich for doing all the things necessary to make our gardens grow. From planting, to weeding, to spreading the bark mulch, the work has been done by these volunteers.

Your work is appreciated by all who walk by these gardens and flower beds.

Going away for the Summer?

Stay in touch through the church website, www.mhfirstcongregational.org and our YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4te-AbJS-hGeUS6c1cmVA/>

Also, please remember that expenses do continue throughout the summer. If you are going to be away for the summer and you don't want your pledge offering to fall behind, you can mail it directly to the office at:

First Congregational Church, UCC
ATTN: Frank Marsh
P. O. Box 659
Mountain Home, ID 83647

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

Public Service Announcement

Red Cross Platelet NEED

The Red Cross is in desperate need of platelet donors. If you have the time to do to Boise and do this special donation, please call the Red Cross at 1-800-787-9691 to schedule an appointment. This particular process takes approximately 2 hours.

Congratulations!!!

Hearty CONGRATULATIONS go out to Senior Master Sergeant Daniel O'Connell on his retirement from the United States Air Force on May 2, 2025. Dan is the husband of Sandy O'Connell and son-in-law to Linda Ramsey.

Thank you for your service and congratulations on a job well done.

June Birthdays

3 – Wade Baumgardner	19- Dustin Paille
4 – Leela Moehn	22 – Nancy Sobien
5 – Dan Mori	24 – Anita Christianson
9 – Leon Gaub	27 – Kitty Singleton
11 – Sherry Bush	28 – Polly Sanders
14 – Mimi Carlton	29 – Richard Broemeling
19 – Gail Banner	

June Anniversaries

15 – Kevin and Tori Case
25 – Judy and Carl Case
29 – Heidi and Allen Harris

Special Angels for June

LITURGISTS (Rick Parks)

1 – Wade Baumgardner
8 – Heidi Harris
15 – Susan Mussler

22 – Betty Ashcraft
29 – Susan Broemeling

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up sheet)

1 –
8 –
15 – Jay and Jean Leonard
22 – Vickie Armstrong & Brian Sporleder
29 –

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

1 – Gail Banner
8 –
15 – Jay and Jean Leonard
22 –
29 – Susan Broemeling

USHERS Lee Wright

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION – Jo Gridley

A Note from Pastor Derrick

The Bible states in Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 2 (KJV) "1To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heave: 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.

As we enter a season of change in leadership and a change in seasons, let us consider that change is sometimes necessary.

Many people are accustomed to routine and sometimes reject change. My encouragement for everyone this month is to learn to embrace change and accept what God allows. There is a blessing in staying open to God's will and allowing Him to be Lord.

Finally, my family and I are truly grateful for this opportunity to be your next spiritual leader. As we all adjust to change, our prayers will be that God will order our steps and direct our paths during this time of change.

*God Bless
Pastor Derrick*

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					

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30 pm Women's AA	2	3	4 Independence Day	5 7 pm-9 pm AA
6 11 am Worship	7 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	8 5:30 pm Women's AA	9	10	11 First Friday Quilters (?)	12 7 pm-9 pm AA
13 11 am Worship	14 7 pm Troop/Crew 57 6:30 pm Trustees (?)	15 5:30 pm Women's AA	16	17	18	19 7 pm-9 pm AA
20 11 am Worship	21 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	22 5:30 pm Women's AA	23	24	25	26 7 pm-9 pm AA
27 11 am Worship	28 7 pm Troop/Crew 57	29 5:30 pm Women's AA	30	31		