

Mountain Proclamations

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

www.mhfirstcongregational.org

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Pastor Derrick

With a heavy heart and after prayerful consideration, Pastor Derrick has found it necessary to immediately resign for personal reasons. He did not make this decision lightly. However, he is still available by phone at (919)593-0820 or email at bridgebuildersconnect@gmail.com should you wish to keep in touch with him. When he has a physical address, he will share it with us. **Update – Late the evening of August 8th, Pastor Derrick and Latasha arrived safely in Jackson, MS, where he has work and is much, much closer to the care he and his family need.**

Pastor Deral Schrom will be preaching for the month of August. Pastor Gary Smith will be with us in September. Pastor Deral and Pastor Gary will trade off each month until we find a supply or settled pastor.

If you have any pastoral needs, please contact the church office or Jennifer Andersen.

Office will be closed

Monday, September 7th, Labor Day, the church office will be closed.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Red Cross Blood Drive for **Tuesday, September 1st** has been cancelled.

September Diaconate Board meeting

Yes, the Diaconate Board will meet on the first Monday, **September 7th, Labor Day**.

Serving Opportunity with the Outreach Committee for AFAD September 11 and 12

The booth will include a Prize Wheel for children to spin and claim prizes (which is a super big attraction) and refreshing cold water for the public.

Roger Fogleman has a canopy, tables, and some chairs for the booth. He will set up on Friday evening, September 11th.

How you can help:

- Help by donating money towards purchase of water for AFAD
- Help set up Friday, Sept. 11, 5 pm at Carl Miller Park
- Help at the booth Saturday, Sept 12th
 - Spinner & prizes
 - Sharing water with public
 - Visiting with parents or grandparents whose child is waiting to spin
 - Visiting with passersby
 - Greeting visitors & sharing church information
- Help take down booth, tables, chairs at 3pm

Sign-up sheets for the 11th & 12th will be posted at church.

Please sign-up for the hours you can help our church so First Congregational will have another successful AFAD booth.

Thanks for volunteering! Together we are an awesome TEAM!

Community Outreach and Membership Life Committee

Music People of all Kinds, Welcome

Vocal choir and bell choir has begun. Both choirs practice on Thursday with Vocal Choir at 5 p.m. and Bells at 6 p.m. These times can be changed if someone truly wishes to join, but can't meet at these hours.

Both Choirs are open to anyone from 9th grade through adults. It's helpful to be able to read music if you wish to join the Bell Choir.

Women's Fellowship

The next Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting will be **September 11, 2026** at noon. Hostesses to be announced. This year's theme is "My Cup Runneth Over".

All women of the church are welcome to attend and feel free to bring a female friend.

Rally Day September 13th!!

The new Sunday School year begins at 10 a.m. on September 13th. The adult Sunday School will be led by Pastors Gary Smith and Deral Schrom, each will have their own curriculum for the months they are in the pulpit. The younger kids will continue with the curriculum they started last year and the teens will begin a new interactive curriculum.

After worship, we will have our annual Rally Day Potluck and BBQ. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided, so bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy the fellowship.

Adult Sunday School

This Fall the supply pastors will teach the adult class. Pastor Gary Smith will begin a series titled "Bible Basics." For many Christians it has been a long time since they reviewed the basic Bible information. It is helpful to reacquaint ourselves with both background information of the Bible as well as the great texts of scripture. Each Sunday attendees will receive a handout that we will discuss together. Bibles are mandatory. Bring your favorite translation and join us beginning Rally Day. Bible Basics will be offered the months of September, November, and January. Pastor Deral Schrom will continue a Bible study on John in October, and December.

It's nomination time

Have you considered being on one of the boards or committees that help keep our church running smoothly? Now's your chance! If you are interested in serving on one of the boards or committees, please contact the church office at (208)587-4969 or someone from the Nominating Committee (Polly Sanders, Susan Walker, Lee Wright, Judy Case and Susan Mussler) with your name and number and you will be contacted.

If you have questions about what each board and committee does, so that you can find the right fit for your gifts, contact the church office and we will get that information to you.

Bulletin Sponsors for 2027

It is time to start signing up to sponsor a worship bulletin for 2027. The sign-up sheet will be on the back table in the sanctuary starting the third Sunday of September, **September 20th**. Choose the worship service you would like to sponsor and write your name next to that date; please note if you wish to remain anonymous. You may make your donation of \$10 per Sunday sponsored any time before the end of 2027. Please mark your check for the bulletin date that you are sponsoring. If you have any questions

about how this works, contact the church office at 587-4969.

Short term ministry opportunities

We have three short term ministries that you can help with that don't require months of commitment. We have Fellowship Hour, Altar Flowers, and Children's Church. All of these are a one Sunday commitment but mean so very much.

With Fellowship Hour, you serve coffee, juice and a snack. Coffee and juice are provided and snacks are available if necessary. You get to see almost everyone in the church and provide everyone with a pleasant time of visiting. Often, friends join together to host this weekly ministry

Altar Flowers bring the beauty of God's earth into the Sanctuary. If you can't arrange flowers, you can still sponsor them by making a donation of \$30 to the Women's Fellowship and they will get the flowers and arrange them for you. Your name will go in the bulletin.

If you would like to help with Children's Church, Jennifer Andersen plans the lessons; all you need to do is be an extra pair of hands and share some input on the lesson of the day. It's a blessing beyond description.

Please check your calendar and see where you might be able to help. You can sign up on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin table in the Sanctuary or you may call or email the church office [(208)587-4969 mhfccucc@gmail.com] to snag your Sunday. Feel free to sign up for any month with openings. Thank you so much for helping!

Roof Donation Update

Donation update – As of **August 23** - **\$13,675.00** has been donated toward the new roof. This includes matching funds from Women's Fellowship. Keep up the great work, Church Family!!

The new roof over the Sanctuary was installed in March. The new roof cost \$61,164. Women's Fellowship has matched the donations for this project up to \$5,000. The contractor has been paid and this took quite a chunk out of our Building Funds, so please consider giving generously to replenish this Fund. For the donations you give by check, please write "For the Roof" or "Building Fund" on the memo line. If you are giving cash in an envelope, please write "For the Roof" or "Building Fund" on the envelope.

Thank you so much for helping care for the building that offers us a place to gather for support, fellowship, and fun.

If you have any questions about this project, ask any member of the Board of Trustees.

Walk to End Alzheimers

The Walk to End Alzheimer's will be September 26th at Julius Kleiner Park in Meridian. The ceremony begins at 11 a.m. Our family will again have our team, Marguerite's Marchers there and would love to have you join us. If you have had any connection to someone with this horrible disease, then you know how devastating it is. My mother, Marguerite, and Roger's mother, Kate, lived the last 5 years of their lives with it, and now Roger has it. Every day I pray that a cure will be found, and of course, tomorrow, but I know that won't happen. Every dollar that we raise will help fund the research and goes to help those fighting it and those caring for them. Please let me know if you can walk or give a donation. Our site has places for donations in memory of or in honor of patients.

Thank you!
Gail

Thank you

Stamps

Nora Lessard and Betty Celaya - thank you so much for the postage stamps to the Outreach Committee. These donations are a big help to the ministry that the Outreach Committee does. Again, Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness.

Pastor Derrick's farewell

On August 5th, we said good-bye to Pastor Derrick and Latasha with a farewell gathering and a light supper of sandwiches and salads. About 60 people were there as Pastor Derrick shared with us his reasons for having to leave so quickly. He assured us that it wasn't anything we did or didn't do. It had everything to do with family and health.

Thank you to Betty Ashcraft, Gail Banner, Polly Sanders, Jean Leonard, Susan Walker, Rita Olson, Nadine Roberts, Judy Case, Jan Chaney, Doreen Solum, Linda Ramsey, Jo Gridley, Rick Bush, Susan and Gene Mussler, and Eddie and Sherry Bush for the amazing job they all accomplished to put this together in just 3 days. If you helped and are not listed, please know that your contributions were much appreciated.

Lawn Care

Special thank you to Wade Baumgardner for edging our lawn last week. It always looks neat and trim when he finishes.

And as always, thank you, Eddie Bush, for doing the mowing every week.

Anyone interested in helping with lawn care, please contact Eddie Bush.

From Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce

"Dear First Congregational Church,

Thank you for your generous donation to the Adopt a School Program! Because of your donation, we were able to give back to the educators who give so much to our community. Thank you for investing in our teachers, students, and the future of our community. We truly appreciate your support!

Sophia Axtell"

From West Elementary

"To the Members of the First Congregational Church,

Thank you so much for your donation to West Elementary. We appreciate your support of our students and staff!

♥Nikki"

From North Elementary

"Thank you for your kind donation of school supplies. North Elementary"

Summer Music

June 28th gave us the Bell Choir coming out for a summer treat. Thank you, Bell Choir!

Special thanks to Debbie Fischer for bringing her music to us on Sunday, July 5th.

From Church World Services

"First Congregational Church of Mountain Home,

Thank you for your faithful support of CWS Blankets! We are so grateful to have you as a partner in this important ministry. Your \$509 gift will help to provide over 50 people with the gift of warmth and hope. Thank you for caring for your neighbors in need.

Peace,
Tiffany"

Welcome Rynlee Elisabeth Arnold

On Sunday, August 16th, 2026, the Arnold family brought forth their newborn daughter, Rynlee Elisabeth Arnold, to be dedicated to our Lord.

Welcome to the family of God, Rynlee!

Public Service Offered!!

The below article is shared by Kelli Collett and was on idahonews.com
MOUNTAIN HOME, Idaho (CBS2) — Elmore County residents who need a ride to medical care

in Ada County can now book free transportation through a six-month expansion of Valley Regional Transit’s Rides2Wellness program into Mountain Home.

The pilot begins July 1, 2026, and is jointly funded by St. Luke’s and Valley Regional Transit. Rides2Wellness provides no-cost, prescheduled transportation to and from approved health care facilities in Ada and Canyon counties, and the expansion is intended to broaden access for Elmore County residents.

Rides to and from Mountain Home can be booked beginning July 1 by calling VRT Customer Service at (208) 345-7433 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Trips are available Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.

The expansion is open to Elmore County residents traveling to medical services in Ada County, including patients of any provider.

As the six-month pilot nears its end later this year, VRT and St. Luke’s will evaluate whether the Mountain Home expansion should become permanent.

Our Condolences

To Rita Olson on the loss of her father

To Merrilee and family in the loss of husband, John

*To Val Price and family in the loss of her husband,
Sumner*

Upcoming Events

Neighbors in Need

“... and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” Ephesians 5:2

Joining together in the struggle for justice and peace.

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on **October 4th**, supports the UCC’s ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. With your assistance, we together can help our Neighbors in Need. Please give generously. And remember, contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made online at any time: ucc.org/nin

September Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 – Heidi Harris | 19 – Beth DeVore |
| 3 – Anne Parker | 20 – Thornton Osgood |
| 10 – Radley Hinger | 22 – Garren Schrom |
| 10 – Rowen Hinger | 25 – Deral Schrom |
| 12 – Devin Osgood | 27 – Jennifer Andersen |
| 14 – Alvaree Venski | 27 – Benjamin Parker |
| 16 – Johnny A. Willis | 30 – Erika Brandt |

September Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 3 | Deral and Garren Schrom |
| 12 | Susan and Gene Mussler |
| 14 | Rose and Lawrence Pearsall |

Special Angels for September

LITURGISTS (Curtis Carlin))

- 6 – Susan Mussler
13 – Grace Townsend
20 – Rick Bush
27 – Susan Walker

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up sheet)

- 6 – Rick Bush
13 – Rally Day (Potluck Barbecue)
20 – Tina Hutton/Grace Townsend
27 – Erika Brandt

USHERS (Jay Leonard)

FLOWERS (Sign-up Sheet)

- 6 – Gail Banner
13 – (Rally Day) Jo and Phil Gridley
20 – Helena DeWeerd
27 –

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Susan Walker)

A Word from Pastor Derrick

A Farewell to First Congregational Church of Mountain Home, Idaho

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" — Psalm 133:1

To our beloved church family,

Myself and Mrs. T we want to personally thank each of you for your love, your gifts, your cards and letters, your tears and your hugs. We will miss you all dearly.

As we depart to travel to Jackson, Mississippi, we leave behind memories of love, service, fellowship, and gratitude for God's grace and mercy.

First Congregational Church will surely be missed and forever remembered.

We love you all.

God bless.
Pastor Derrick & Latasha Wilcox

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	2 1 p.m. PEO	3 10 a.m. Tai Chi 4 p.m. GSA 1077 5:30 p.m. GSA 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	4 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	5 7 p.m. AA
6 11 p.m. Worship	7 Labor Day 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting OFFICE CLOSED	8 10 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	9	10 10 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 p.m. GSA 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	11 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting	12 7 p.m. AA
<i>Rally Day</i> 13 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion AW Potluck BBQ	14 6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees mtg. 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57 meets	15 10 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	16 1 p.m. PEO	17 10 a.m. Tai Chi 4 p.m. GSA 1077 5:30 p.m. GSA 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	18	19 7 p.m. AA
20 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Christian Ed	21 7 p.m. Church Council mtg 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	22 10 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	23	24 10 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 p.m. GSA 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	25	26 7 p.m. AA
27 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Outreach	28 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57 meets	29 10 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	30			

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10 a.m. Tai Chi 4 p.m. GSA 1077 5:30 p.m. GSA 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	2 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	3 7 p.m. AA
4 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion Neighbors in Need offering	5 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	6 10 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	7 1 p.m. PEO	8 10 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 p.m. GSA 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	9 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting	10 7 p.m. AA
11 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Christian Ed	12 Columbus Day OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 p.m. Trustees	13 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	14	15 4 p.m. GSA 1077 5:30 p.m. GSA 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	16	17 7 a.m. – 12 p.m. ADK meeting 7 p.m. AA
18 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Potluck	19 7 p.m. Church Council mtg 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	20 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	21 1 p.m. PEO	22 5:30 p.m. GSA 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	26 7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57	27 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	28	29 4 p.m. GSA 1077 5:30 p.m. GSA 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells	30	31 7 p.m. AA Halloween