

# *Mountain Proclamations*

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

[www.mhfirstcongregational.org](http://www.mhfirstcongregational.org)

**October 2026**

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Volume 59 - Issue 9

## *Neighbors in Need*

*"Walk in love, as Christ loved us"*

*Ephesians 5:2*

Joining together in the struggle for justice and peace, the Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on **October 4**, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. With your assistance, together we 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](http://ucc.org/nin)

## *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. 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.

**NOTE:** As mentioned above, Pastor Deral will continue to teach the Adult Sunday School class the Book of John, beginning with a review of what has been studied before. This will help newcomers come up to speed and refresh the memories of those who have attended Pastor Deral's classes before.

## *Music People of all Kinds, Welcome*

The Choirs have begun! Singers practice on **Thursdays at 5 p.m.** Bell Choir practices on **Thursdays 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 9<sup>th</sup> grade through adults. It's helpful to be able to read music if you wish to join the Bell Choir.

## *Office Closed*

In observance of Indigenous Peoples Day (Columbus Day), the church office will be closed on **Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**.

## *October's Potluck Sunday*

The October potluck is on **Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>** after worship. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share – main course, side dish, salad or dessert. All are invited to the table.

## *Mid-Year 2026 Treasures Report*

As of mid-September, we have received General donations of \$83,114 with General expenditures of \$111,582. This compares with last year's General donations of \$79,866 and General expenditures of \$110,645 at the same time.

We have also received: \$13,715 in donations for our new roof over the Sanctuary; \$1,490 in Special Offerings; \$2,025 to the Building Fund; and \$840 in Memorial donations.

In addition to the General Expenditures above, we spent an additional \$71,157 on our new Sanctuary roof and other capital projects.

We have been covering the shortfall in donations vs. expenditures with our endowment accounts. We are fortunate to have these endowments but cannot continue to rely on the endowments, especially at the rate we have over this past year. Your donations are needed and greatly appreciated.

Thank you for generously supporting the church.

*Eddie Bush*  
Treasurer

## *Third Quarter Statements*

Third Quarter Giving Statements will be compiled and mailed the last week of October. Questions? Contact Frank Marsh.

## *Women's Fellowship*

All women of the church, neighbors, friends and kinfolk are invited to the October meeting of Women's Fellowship on **Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a pot-luck luncheon preceding the meeting. Hostesses this month are Vickie Armstrong and Polly Sanders. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Nancy Sobien*

## *Home Communion*

The Diaconate Board provides Home Communion to our church family that cannot get out to church any more. If you are one of these church family members and you would like Home Communion brought to you, please contact the church office and we will put you on the list.

## *Historian Needed*

Kay Eilebrecht has been our Church Historian for going on five years now and, understandably, she would like to step down.

If you are interested in keeping up with the happenings of the church and her members and recording them for future generations to look back on, please contact the church office and we will put you in touch with Kay. She is willing to share what she's done and other options of ways to keep up the history books. You do not have to be a scrapbooker to do this ministry.

## *Pilgrim Cove Representative*

Pilgrim Cove Camp has been an important part of our church life for decades. There is a Board that governs and maintains our church camp in McCall. This Board was put in place by the Idaho Association of UCC Churches.

Mountain Home First Congregational Church needs to have a voice on that Board. If you have an interest in Outdoor Ministry and can either physically be in McCall or through ZOOM, attend the monthly meetings of the Pilgrim Cove Camp Board, please contact the church office and we'll get you introduced to the Board. Thank you for considering this unique youth ministry.

## *Bulletin Sponsors for 2027*

It is time to start signing up to sponsor a worship bulletin for 2027. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin table. 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.

## *Devotional Booklets*

*These Days* for **October through December** are now available. You may get a copy from the office or from the bulletin table in the Sanctuary.

The "These Days" devotional booklets are provided by Helena DeWeerd in memory of her husband, John, and her son, Jeff.

***The Large Print Edition of Our Daily Bread for October through December is now available.***

The regular print edition of *Our Daily Bread* for **September through November 2026** is available from the bulletin table or the office.

## *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 \$40 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 plans the lessons; all you need to do is be an extra pair of hands and maybe 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 – (208)587-4969 or email the church office to [mhfcucc@gmail.com](mailto:mhfcucc@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 **September 20** - **\$13,815.00** 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.

### *Thanks*

*From Axel Lim*

Thank you all for the past year of fellowship! I will miss you all.

### *AFAD Booth*

Even though, in the end, it was necessary to cancel the First Congregational booth at the Air Force Appreciation Day event, the church is grateful to all those who were willing to put in the work to do this event.

Thank you to the Outreach Committee of Erika Brandt, Mildred McNeal, Lori Levis, Mollie Marsh, Vickie Armstrong, and Diane Venski for all the hours put in planning, ordering prizes, sorting prizes and staging supplies for set-up.

Thank you to Roger Fogleman for taking care of securing the site for the booth and being willing to provide the canopy and tables.

Thank you to all those who signed up to work the booth – some who signed up for more than one slot. These wonderful people are Jan Chaney, Erika Brandt, Vickie Armstrong, Lars Hansen, Roger Fogleman, Gail Banner, LuAnn, Tina Christianson, Joyce and Harris Allgood, Sunnie Marx, and Eddie Bush. Your willingness to dedicate your time, effort and talent is much appreciated.

*A Grateful Church*

### *Rally Day and the Potluck Barbecue*

The first day of Sunday School was very productive. All the classes were in session, and by the looks and smiles on the students’ faces, they all had a good time.

The Rally Day Potluck was also a success. Thank you to Curtis Carlin and Mike Moehn for cooking all the hamburgers and hot dogs. Special thanks to the kitchen crew of Sherry Bush, Rick Bush, Lars Hansen, Mary Ann Hamilton, Erika Brandt, and Kim Cecil (forgive me if I forgot someone) for setting up the tables, putting out

the food, and cleaning up after everyone finished.

*Ken Andersen  
Christian Ed Chair*

### *Pilgrim Cove Camp Work Weekend*

- Friday, October 9, 2026 6:00 PM  
Saturday, October 10, 2026 5:00 PM

Our annual fall work weekend will be on October 9-10, 2026. We will be preparing the camp for winter, putting away outside items, cutting firewood, fall cleaning and preparing the camp for the winter season.

As always, please feel free to come on Friday night for fun and fellowship. Work will start after breakfast on Saturday and hopefully be finished by 4pm. Overnight lodging and food are provided to all of our volunteers.

Please let the camp know if you are coming by **Monday October 6**. We are grateful for all of the volunteer help that helps keep Pilgrim Cove Camp in great shape and assisting in making our ministry possible. Thank you for your continued support.

To sign up just call the camp office at 208-634-5555 or email [office@pilgrimcovecamp.org](mailto:office@pilgrimcovecamp.org). We hope to see you all on work weekend. Thank You.

### *Coming Events*

#### *Daylight Savings Time Ends*

**Sunday, November 1, 2026, 2 a.m.**, turn those clocks back one hour.

#### *Annual Budget and Election Meeting*

The Annual Budget and Election Meeting will be after worship on **Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**. All members of the church are strongly encouraged to attend so that we have a quorum to vote the Budget and new elected officers of the church.

#### *Thanksgiving events*

Our Pledge Blessing Service will during the 11 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**. We will bless our pledge offerings and our Time and Talent offerings at this time. Please be sure to bring your filled-out pledge cards with you. Thank you so much for generously giving back to God with your time, talents, and treasure.

The Annual Pie Auction will be after worship on **Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**. If you would like to bake some pies for this, please contact Nadine Roberts.

In the evening of **Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m.** we will have our annual Thanksgiving

potluck dinner. If you would like to cook one of the turkeys, please contact Erika Brandt. More details to follow.

**Community Services**

***Public Service Offered!!***

The below article is shared by Kelli Collett.

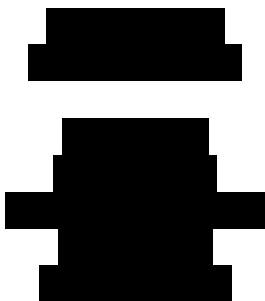
MOUNTAIN HOME, Idaho (CBS2) — Elmore County residents who need a ride to medical care in Ada County can now book free transportation through a six-month expansion of Valley Regional Transit’s Rides2Wellness program into Mountain Home.

The pilot began 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.

**Directory Updates**



**October Birthdays**

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 2 – Suzanne Dillard | 13 – Kristy Blanksma   |
| 4 – Lauren Tomsic   | 13 – Mary Ann Hamilton |
| 7 – Joyce Allgood   | 16 – Henry Toy         |
| 7 – Jay Leonard     | 19 – Howard Walker     |
| 8 – Kyle Arnold     | 21 – Karen Townsend    |
| 9 – Rick Parks      | 23 – Mariah Parks      |
| 10 – Terri Jones    | 25 – Mollie Marsh      |
| 12- Adalyn Ralls    | 26 – Linda Ramsey      |

**October Anniversaries**

- 8 – Jeremy and Michaela Loosli  
18 – Ann & Curtis Carlin  
30 – Anne Parker & Paul Taggart

**Special Angels for October**

**LITURGISTS** (Jo Gridley)

- 4 – Jay Leonard  
11 –Wade Baumgardner  
18 – Susan Walker  
25 – Grace Townsend

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR** (Sign-Up Sheet)

- 4 – Betty Ashcraft  
11 – Ann and Curtis Carlin  
18 – POTLUCK  
25 – Chartelle Eichman

**FLOWERS** (Sign-Up Sheet)

- 4 – Jo and Phil Gridley  
11 –Joyce Allgood  
18 – Ann and Curtis Carlin  
25 – Susan and Richard Broemeling

**USHERS** (Polly Sanders)

**PARAMENTS** (Allen Harris)

**COMMUNION** (Susan Walker)

**A Word from one of your Pastors**

To say that Gary and I are surprised to be back with you all serving as your interim pastors is a bit of understatement! That said, Gary and Robbie, Garren and I, are glad to be able to step in and help.

As you’re likely aware by now he and I are ‘flipping’ months. Gary is with you during this month of September, and I will serve with you the month of October.

My sermon messages will continue the theme I began in August – “When Life Goes Bump!” The adult Sunday School class will pick up our teaching through the Gospel of John. On October 4<sup>th</sup> I will provide an introductory lesson and overview of the Gospel itself, so anyone new who would like to join the class, even if you weren’t part of it before, will have an opportunity to get acquainted with the material, the overall theme of John, and how the ‘application bridge’ ties timeless principles to ‘then’ and ‘now’. I’m looking forward to being with you in the class again, remembering “we’re not fast, we’re thorough”!

The unexpected happens to us all. But in it all God is utterly reliable. God’s steadfast love produces a steadfast endurance in us.

*Stay Steady!*  
*Pastor Deral*

# October 2026

| Sun                                                                                      | Mon                                                             | Tue                                               | Wed              | Thu                                                                                                                      | Fri                                                 | Sat                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                          |                                                                 |                                                   |                  | 1<br>NO Tai Chi<br>4 p.m. GSA 1077<br>5:30 p.m. GSA 1064<br>5 p.m. Choir<br>6 p.m. Bells                                 | 2<br>10 a.m. First Friday Quilters                  | 3<br>7 p.m. AA                                                           |
| 4<br>10 a.m. Sunday School<br>11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion<br>Neighbors in Need offering | 5<br>7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting<br><br>7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57 | 6<br>10 a.m. Tai Chi<br><br>5:30 p.m. Women's AA  | 7<br>1 p.m. PEO  | 8<br>10 a.m. Tai Chi<br>5:30 p.m. GSA 1064<br>5 p.m. Choir<br>6 p.m. Bells<br>6:30 p.m. Daisies                          | 9<br>12 p.m. Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting | 10<br>7 p.m. AA                                                          |
| 11<br>10 a.m. Sunday School<br>11 a.m. Worship<br><br>AW Christian Ed                    | 12<br>Columbus Day OFFICE CLOSED<br><br>6:30 p.m. Trustees      | 13<br>10 a.m. Tai Chi<br><br>5:30 p.m. Women's AA | 14               | 15<br>10 a.m. Last Tai Chi<br>4 p.m. GSA 1077<br>5:30 p.m. GSA 1064<br>5 p.m. Choir<br>6 p.m. Bells<br>6:30 p.m. Daisies | 16                                                  | 17<br>7 a.m. – 12 p.m. ADK meeting<br><br>7 p.m. AA                      |
| 18<br>10 a.m. Sunday School<br>11 a.m. Worship<br><br>AW Potluck                         | 19<br>7 p.m. Church Council mtg<br><br>7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57     | 20<br>5:30 p.m. Women's AA                        | 21<br>1 p.m. PEO | 22<br>5:30 p.m. GSA 1064<br>5 p.m. Choir<br>6 p.m. Bells<br>6:30 p.m. Daisies                                            | 23                                                  | 24<br>7 p.m. AA                                                          |
| 25<br>10 a.m. Sunday School<br>11 a.m. Worship<br><br>AW Outreach                        | 26<br>7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57                                      | 27<br>5:30 p.m. Women's AA                        | 28               | 29<br>4 p.m. GSA 1077<br>5:30 GSA 1064<br>5 p.m. Choir<br>6 p.m. Bells<br>6:30 p.m. Daisies                              | 30                                                  | 31<br>Halloween<br>7 p.m. AA<br>SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR AT BEDTIME |

# November 2026

| Sun                                                                                   | Mon                                                         | Tue                                                | Wed                | Thu                                                                                              | Fri                                                  | Sat                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                                                     | 2                                                           | 3                                                  | 4                  | 5                                                                                                | 6                                                    | 7                                                   |
| 2 a.m. DST ENDS<br>10 a.m. Sunday School<br>11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion              | 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting<br><br>7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57  | 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. voting<br><br>5:30 p.m. Women's AA | 1 p.m. PEO         | 5:30 p.m. GSA 1064<br>5 p.m. Choir<br>6 p.m. Bells<br>6:30 p.m. Daisies                          | 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters                        | 7 p.m. AA                                           |
| 8<br>10 a.m. Sunday School<br>11 a.m. Worship<br><b>BUDGET AND ELECTION MEETING</b>   | 9<br>6:30 p.m. Trustees<br><br>7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57         | 10<br>5:30 p.m. Women's AA                         | 11<br>Veterans Day | 12<br>4 p.m. GSA 1077<br>5:30 p.m. GSA 1064<br>5 p.m. Choir<br>6 p.m. Bells<br>6:30 p.m. Daisies | 13<br>12 p.m. Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting | 14<br>7 p.m. AA                                     |
| 15<br>10 a.m. Sunday School<br>11 a.m. Worship<br>AW Christian Ed mtg                 | 16<br>7 p.m. Church Council mtg<br><br>7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57 | 17<br>5:30 p.m. Women's AA                         | 18                 | 19<br>5:30 p.m. GSA 1064<br>5 p.m. Choir<br>6 p.m. Bells<br>6:30 p.m. Daisies                    | 20                                                   | 21<br>7 p.m. AA                                     |
| 22<br>10 a.m. Sunday School<br>11 a.m. Worship<br>6 p.m. Thanksgiving Dinner          | 23                                                          | 24<br>5:30 p.m. Women's AA                         | 25                 | 26<br>Thanksgiving Day<br><br>Office Closed                                                      | 27                                                   | 28<br>7 p.m. AA<br><br>9 a.m. Hanging of the Greens |
| <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 29<br>10 a.m. Sunday School<br>11 a.m. Worship | 30<br>7 p.m. Troop/Crew 57                                  |                                                    |                    |                                                                                                  |                                                      |                                                     |

