Mountain Proclamations

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

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

Volume 58 - Issue 10

Fall Time Change

Sunday, November 1, 2026
Turn your clock **back** one hour

Stewardship Letters

"Every good and perfect gift is from above."
— James 1:17

Watch your mail for the Stewardship 2027 letter and pledge cards. These are the lifeblood of the church – time, talent, and treasure. Please give prayerful consideration to the gifts and blessings you have received and how you might return a portion of them to God's service.

A thought about the Time and Talent cards – If there is any gift you have that you would like to share with the church, please fill out the yellow Time and Talent care. Don't think, "If they need my help, they'll call me." That's not necessarily true. If we don't receive a card from you, we can only imagine that you do not have the time available to offer to the church and her many functions. What you may not consider a gift – it's just something that you do – might well be a very valuable gift to one of the boards or committees that keep this church family going. So please, please, fill out the Time and Talent card with anything you can offer the church family in the way of Time and/or "Talent".

If there are more volunteers in your household and you would like extra Time and Talent cards, please contact the church office.

3rd Quarter Donation Statements

Third quarter Donation Statements will be mailed around October 29th. Monetary donations are an important part of keeping our church fully functioning. Your Donation Statement includes your financial contributions from January 1, 2026 through/including October 11, 2026.

Thank you for your support of our church and church family. If you have any questions about your Donation Statement please contact the Financial Recording Secretary, Frank Marsh, at [redacted]

Don't Forget to Vote

November 3rd is Election Day

Annual Budget and Election meeting

Budget and Election meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 8th, after worship.** Members nominated are listed below. Please plan to attend to complete a quorum.

Officers, Board, and Committee Members Nominated for 2027

ONE YEAR OFFICE

Moderator:	Gene Mussler
Assistant Moderator:	Susan Broemeling
Clerk:	Ken Andersen
Treasurer:	Eddie Bush
Financial Secretary:	Frank Marsh
Historian:	Kay Eilebrecht
Photographer	Ann Carlin
Youth Coordinator:	Frank Marsh
Parliamentarian	Ken Andersen

Pilgrim Cove Representative:
Auditor: Appointed by Trustees for bi-annual review

THREE-YEAR TERMS

Diaconate Board: Lee Wright, Curtis Carlin, Jay Leonard, Polly Sanders, Paul Ingram, Ann Carlin, Jo Gridley, Rick Bush, Susan Walker, Susan Mussler

Trustees: Richard Broemeling, Mollie Marsh, Rita Olson, Roger Fogleman, Linda Ramsey, Betty Ashcraft

Christian Education: Ken Andersen, Diane Venski, Christine Negri, Jan Chaney

Community Outreach and Membership Life: Erika Brandt, Mildred McNeal, Vickie Armstrong, Lori Levise, Diane Venski

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Linda Ramsey, Polly Sanders, Phil Miller, Roger Fogleman, Rick Bush

ONE-YEAR TERMS

Pastoral Relations: Gail Banner, Lee Wright, Polly Sanders

Music Committee: Doraine Aggen, Gail Banner

Social Committee: Curtis Carlin, Nadine Roberts, Erica Brandt, Lars Hansen, Mary Ann Hamilton, Judy Case

Nominated members of each office board and committee for the year 2027. We would like to thank everyone who has volunteered and/or said "yes" to serve as officers, board members, and committee members.

We also thank and appreciate all of those who have agreed to continue with their current or second terms and all those who are new to a committee.

Nominating Committee
Polly Sanders – Chair, Barbara Fogleman, Susan Mussler, Susan Walker

Editor's note: Thank you, Nominating Committee for all your hard work.

The Annual Pie Auction!

The Women's Fellowship Annual Pie Auction will be held on **Sunday, November 22nd** following the church service. We hope to have 22 delicious, homemade pies to auction off to the highest bidder. Anyone that is interested in donating a homemade pie, please contact the chairman, Nadine Roberts, (208)587-5322 or (208)590-3983. All proceeds go to Women's Fellowship to distribute throughout the church, community and world!

Bring your friends and neighbors, and checkbooks, and take home a yummy homemade pie!

Women of the Church

Women's Fellowship meeting

The November meeting of Women's Fellowship will be a pot-luck luncheon/meeting **at noon on November 13th**. All women are invited whether they attend our church or not!

Meeting topics will be the upcoming Pie Auction and 2nd Hand Christmas and Goodies! Hostesses are Dorraine Aggen and Betty Ashcraft.

Any questions? Please just ask Nancy Sobien or Gail Banner

2ND Hand Christmas & Goodies

In place of our usual Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar, this year we are holding a 2nd Hand Christmas & Goodies Event. We will have many gently used Christmas Decorations and unique gift items.

Horner's Corner will once again be present with fresh, homemade cinnamon rolls and slices of pie!

It will be held in the Fellowship Hall of our church from 8:00-12:00 on Saturday, December 5th.

We would appreciate donations of Christmas décor, fresh homemade pies, and lovely gift items.

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.

Samaritan's Purse

Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the message of the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ. For children around the world, a shoebox is often their very first gift. Given together with the Good News of Jesus Christ, it communicates God's love to a boy and girls in need.

Age Groups and Suggested Items –

Girls 2 - 4 yrs	**Boys 2 - 4 yrs**
Girls 5- 9 yrs	**Boys 5 -9 yrs**
Girls 10-14 yrs	**Boys 10 - 14 yrs**

Personal Care Items – combs, hairbrush, toothbrush, wash cloths, band aids, ChapStick, stick deodorant, nail clippers, socks, water bottle, flash light and batteries if needed.
Accessories: Sunglasses, scrunchies, tote bag, hair bows, hair bands, thread, hat, bead jewelry, bead kit, friendship bracelet.
Crafts – Activities: pencils, pencil sharpener, markers, pens, playdough, jump ropes, puzzles, marbles
Toys: balls, finger puppets, etch-a-sketch, cars, trucks, boats, slinky, dinosaurs, yo-yo, hacky sack, small frisbee

All items need to be to the church by November 8th. See Barb Fogleman or Susan Broemeling for more information.

Giving Tree

There will be a Giving Tree this year. Gift tags should be available by the mid-November. More information to come as they work out the details.

As always, Ann Carlin will be our point of contact for this project. Thank you, Ann, for your continued dedication to those who need a little extra love and support.

Pledge Blessing

Our Pledge Blessing Service will be during the 11 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, November 22nd.** 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.

Thanksgiving Dinner

On the evening of **Sunday, November 22nd at 6 p.m**. we will have our Thanksgiving potluck dinner. Turkey and fixins' will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share to add to the feast. All are welcome to the table.

Community Thanksgiving Unity Worship Service

The Elmore County Ministerial Alliance will be hosting their annual Community Thanksgiving Unity Worship service will be held at the Christian and Baptist Church, 265 N 4th East on **Tuesday, November 17th at 7 p.m.**

Please make plans to come and take this time to worship and reflect on all the blessings we have received over the past year.

Hanging of the Greens

On **Saturday, November 28th**, at 9 a.m. we will begin decorating the church for the coming Christmas season.

Anyone who wishes to come help the Diaconate Board set up the Christmas Trees and hang the wreaths and garland is more than welcome to join in the fun.

Poinsettia Dedications

Beginning **Sunday, December 6th** you may start bringing in your live poinsettias (no silk ones, please). 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 16th** Forms will be available on the back table beginning **Sunday, November 29th.**

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.

Short term ministry opportunities

We have three short term ministries that you can help with that don't require months of commitment. 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.

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 mhfccucc@gmail.com to snag your Sunday. Feel free to sign up for any month with openings. Thank you so much for helping!

Thank you

Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need offering was collected on Sunday, October 4th. Our generous collection for our neighbors was $226, a small increase over last year! Thank you for spreading your generosity far and wide.

October Potluck

Thank you to the Social Committee and extra helpers as well as to all who shared their bounty by bringing their favorite potluck dish to share.

The potluck on Sunday, October 18th fed 72 people who had a wonderful time eating and getting to know each other better.

Upcoming events

2ND Hand Christmas & Goodies

In place of our usual Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar, this year we are holding a 2nd Hand Christmas & Goodies Event. We will have many gently used Christmas Decorations and unique gift items.

Horner's Corner will once again be present with fresh, homemade cinnamon rolls and slices of pie!

It will be held in the Fellowship Hall of our church from 8:00-12:00 on Saturday, December 5th.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Our quarterly **Red Cross Blood Drive** will be on **Tuesday, December 15th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** If you would like to help, check people in or serve snacks some time during the day, please contact Rick Parks.

Christmas Potluck

The Christmas Potluck will be after worship on **Sunday, December 20th.** Ham will be provided. Please bring side dishes and desserts to share.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Our Christmas Eve worship service will be at 7 p.m. on **Thursday, December 24th.**

All Boards and Committees

Year-end Annual Reports are due in the office by **Thursday, January 7th**, earlier if possible, so they can be prepared for distribution at our Annual Meeting on **Sunday, January 17th**.

Anniversaries in November

11 – John and Carrie DiGuido
19 – Derrick and Latasha Wilcox
20 – Jose and Sylvia Sisneros

Birthdays in November

2 – Alexis Parks
2 – Samantha Pearsall
4 – Joe B McNeal
4 - Phil Gridley
4 – Sue Stanek
6 – Rebeca Arnold
6 – Helena DeWeerd
7 – Bradley Arnold
8 – Cara Grindle
8 – Gloria Gaub
8 – Derrick Wilcox
11 – Allison Ralls
15 - Sabastien Rowl
15 – Allen Harris
19 – Mike Keas
23 – Harris Allgood
23 – Grace Townsend
26 – Katie Parks
28 – Philip Miller

Special Angels for November

LITURGISTS (Jay Leonard)

1 – Polly Sanders
8 – Susan Broemeling
15 – Curtis Carlin
22 – Rita Olson
29 – Richard Broemeling

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sign-up sheet)

1 –
8 – The DeWeerd Family
15 – Allen and Heidi Harris
22 – Pie Auction – Erika Brandt
29 – Sharon Chambers

USHERS (Lee Wright/Curtis Carlin/Rick Bush)

FLOWERS

Lee Wright and Sherry Bush

PARAMENTS (Allen and Heidi Harris)

COMMUNION (Susan Walker)

From Pastor Gary

Come ye thankful people come, raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms being.
God our maker does provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple come. Raise the song of harvest home.

The hymn seems so fitting because as I write this note Robbie is gathering her garden produce for safe keeping. November is one of my favorite months not just because of the holiday but because I am reminded that there is so much to be thankful for. I will be using the thanksgiving theme throughout the month for the many blessings we have received. Hopefully the expression of thanks will relate to the activities of the church. We will begin November with thanks for communion followed by gratitude for church leaders and then thanks for enough as we make our financial pledges. Of course we will celebrate thanksgiving Sunday.
Come ye thankful people come and join us in thankful worship this November.

Pastor Gary Smith

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **2 a.m. DST ENDS** 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	2 5 p.m. GSA 1075 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting 7 p.m. Troop 57	3 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. voting 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	4 1 p.m. PEO	5 5:30 p.m. GSA 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells 6:30 p.m. Daisies	6 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters	7 7 p.m. AA
8 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship **BUDGET AND ELECTION MEETING**	9 5 p.m. GSA 1075 6:30 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. Troop 57	10 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	11 Veterans Day	12 4 p.m. GSA 1077 5:30 p.m. GSA 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells 6:30 p.m. Daisies	13 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting	14 7 p.m. AA
15 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Christian Ed mtg	16 5 p.m. GSA 1075 7 p.m. Church Council mtg 7 p.m. Troop 57	17 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	18	19 5:30 p.m. GSA 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells 6:30 p.m. Daisies	20	21 7 p.m. AA
22 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Pie Auction **6 p.m.** Thanksgiving Dinner	23	24 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	25	26 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	27	28 7 p.m. AA **9 a.m. Hanging of the Greens**
1st Sunday of Advent 29 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Outreach mtg	30 5 p.m. GSA 1075 7 p.m. Troop 57					

December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	2	3 5:30 p.m. GSA 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells 6:30 p.m. Daisies	4 10 a.m. First Friday Quilters Bazaar Set-up	5 8 a.m. to Noon Second-Hand Christmas Bazaar 7 p.m. AA
2nd Sunday of Advent 6 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship w/ Communion	7 5 p.m. GSA 1075 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting 7 p.m. Troop 57	8 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	9	10 4 p.m. GSA 1077 5:30 p.m. GSA 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells 6:30 p.m. Daisies	11 12 p.m. Women's Fellowship potluck and meeting **5 p.m. Troop 57**	12 7 p.m. AA **Lock-in - Noon**
3rd Sunday of Advent 13 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship **AW Christian Ed mtg**	14 5 p.m. GSA 1075 6:30 p.m. Trustees 7 p.m. Troop 57	15 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Blood Drive 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	16	17 5:30 p.m. GSA 1064 5 p.m. Choir 6 p.m. Bells 6:30 p.m. Daisies	18	19 7 p.m. AA
4th Sunday of Advent 20 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship **AW Christmas Potluck Luncheon**	21 7 p.m. Church Council mtg	22 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	23	24 **7 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**	25 Christmas	26 7 p.m. AA
27 NO Sunday School 11 a.m. Worship AW Outreach mtg	28 7 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting	29 5:30 p.m. Women's AA	30	31 New Year's Eve		