IDAHO IS MORE THAN JUST POTATOES!!

We are:
Microchip-makers, outdoor adventure guides, researchers, military members, & Olympians

Together we enjoy:
Classical music, rodeos, skiing, & multi-cultural celebrations

The "Gem State" is home to:
Five Native American Tribes, cowgirls, fighter pilots, Peruvian sheep herders, Basque community, & refugees
National forests, hot springs, fish hatcheries, & World Center for Birds of Prey

Idaho's rich history can be felt at:
National Historic Landmarks & Preserves, ghost towns, monuments,
ancient Indigenous art sites & Oregon Trail ruts

And of course, we are proud to produce
(through the cooperative efforts of many sweaty foreheads, calloused hands, late nights & early alarms)
an abundance of food for our nation & the world.

FIRST
Congregational Church
MOUNTAIN HOME - IDAHO



Church Name: First Congregational Church of Mountain Home
Street Address: 515 East 15th North, Mountain Home, ID 83647
Supplemental Web Links: https://mhfirstcongregational.org/
YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@mhfirstcongregational9572
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61590406381502

Conference: Central Pacific Conference
Association: Idaho
Conference Staff: Rev. Melanie Oommen
Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ
PO Box 22588, Portland, OR 97269 503-343-0702 melanie@cpcucc.org

Summary ministry description:

We arrived individually in Idaho's beautiful high desert through duty, by chance, by purposeful choice, or were born here. However, we all have one similarity:

We have all intentionally chosen our UCC Church as our spiritual home and we have thrived! We are grateful! For 134 years we worshipped, wept, laughed, worked, and ate together. More importantly, we encouraged, ministered, and lent a hand to each other, the Mountain Home area, and the UCC's wider ministry. Our congregation is comprised of empty nesters, single adults, young families, and grandparents who bring grandchildren. Our church is run by the congregation for the overall operation of church life. We rotate responsibilities; communicate between boards, trustees, the minister, and congregation; initiate repairs and additions/updates for our physical structure; have sound financials; and care about each other and our community and the world. *We want others to join us! We want to amplify our impact!*

We need a pastor who will work with us individually, as well as collectively, to guide, teach, comfort, and broaden us in our lifelong spiritual journey. We seek a pastor who: 1) nourishes us spiritually and deepens our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus; 2) energetically seeks to minister to members' concerns; 3) actively works, and interacts, with the congregation; 4) considers and addresses the community's wider needs; and 5) is passionate about ministry and loves people.

We are members of the UCC, but we are absolute believers in congregational independence and self-governance.



Jason Farham performing inside the Mountain Home First Congregational Church's sanctuary, sponsored by Mountain Home Arts Council



The Rose Garden by our parking lot.



Troop 57, with Certificates of Appreciation.

What we value about living in our area:

1. **Friendly –** Mountain Home enjoys a small-town atmosphere of parades, festivals, rodeos, races, downtown art, free outdoor concerts and movies, superb healthcare and fitness amenities, and restaurants serving local and international foods. New friendships develop as military (American and foreign), Forest Service, educators, retirees, and others move here. Employment in diverse occupations is expanding and community activities welcome volunteers. Commuter vans provide easy access to Boise State University and employment in the Boise area.

2. **Parks & Open Space** – Mountain Home boasts the most city park acreage per capita in Idaho! Southern Idaho is a four-season sports area. We are within easy driving distances of excellent fishing, including the famed Silver Creek outside of Ketchum. Four major ski slopes are all less than 100 miles away and our area is noted for its wealth of groomed snowmobile paths. Idaho Fish and Game Unit 39 is in our backyard with hunting seasons for a variety of game. Nearby Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management areas preserve ecosystems for public use including hiking, biking, camping, mineral hot springs, historical sites, bird watching, and photography. Two vastly different state parks, Three Island Crossing (Oregon Trail and Indigenous history) and Bruneau Dunes (tallest single structure sand dune in North America) are only 20 miles away.

3. **Military, Agriculture Oriented, and Economic Influencers**

   Military: Mountain Home Airforce Base (MHAFB) is ten miles away. Twenty-five percent of Mountain Home residents are currently affiliated with MHAFB or are retired military. These residents include:

   Singaporean F-15 pilots and families;
   U.S. Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron (VMFAT) 501 training at MHAFB;
   Qatari pilots will be training here soon.

   Agriculture: Elmore County has 358,454 farm acres of alfalfa, wheat, potatoes, sugar beets, grain, onions, other crops, and pastureland. Cattle and dairy are the area's two leading agricultural sectors. Elmore County agriculture brought in $592 million in revenue in 2022, ranking it 6th out of Idaho's 44 counties (USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service). In 2022, 95 % of all farms were family farms with 8% selling directly to consumers (Idaho Farm Bureau Association).

   Business: Marathon Cheese Corporation, Mountain Home School District, Walmart, St. Luke's Health System, Elmore County, City of Mountain Home, PKL Services Inc., Pioneer Federal Credit Union Administration, Albertsons, Johnson Brothers Hospitality, Inventive-Group (Inventive Projects, In The Ditch, Razorback Offroad UTV Accessories, Fish Fighter Products), Wolfe Pack Pellets, Edge Performance Sports, numerous banks, and more. Mountain Home is also home to a number of commuters working in Boise, looking for a quieter, less expensive locale to live in and raise a family.

4. **Cultural Opportunities -** Mountain Home offers a wide variety of cultural activities for the whole family, as well as the younger adults who may be stationed here at MHAFB. The Mountain Home Arts Council produces live performances of music, drama, local talent variety shows, and dinner theater. The visual arts guild showcases local artists at the library, Mountain Home Newspaper, and other venues, and the city is adorned with murals painted by artists of all ages on the outside walls of the businesses (with permission, of course). The literary arts guild publishes *The Whistlepig*, a yearly compendium of local writers. Other groups in town sponsor Juneteenth, Black History Banquet, Cinco de Mayo celebrations, and the annual Basque picnic. Every September, Mountain Home celebrates its partnership with MHAFB with Air Force Appreciation Day (AFAD) parade and free barbecue lunch for thousands with a wide range of vendors, bands, and activities making it a lively week.

   Boise hosts its own philharmonic orchestra, opera companies, and ballet company. Drama is a strong component of the Boise area with companies including the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Boise Contemporary Theater, and The Boise Little Theatre.

5. **Sports -** Boise is home to three major sports teams/programs. The NCAA Division I Boise State Broncos football team plays on the internationally famous blue turf (aka "Smurf Turf" or "The Blue") and has won five Mountain West Conference championships since 2014. Boise also hosts the Idaho Steelheads, a minor league hockey team associated with the NHL's Dallas Stars, and the independent professional baseball team

Boise Hawks. Boise also hosts the Athletic Club Boise, a USL League One team which is moving to the USL Championship tier in 2027. There are also a wide variety of sporting events ranging from bicycle racing, mixed martial arts, college basketball, volleyball, or soccer. Mountain Home hosts the annual Daniel Dopps Memorial PRCA Rodeo and the high school has teams for football, baseball, basketball, soccer, cross country running, wrestling, track and field, golf, and swimming.

6. **Medical Services** - Within Mountain Home, there are several medical facilities that range from the St. Luke's Medical Center (24-hour emergency department, 25-bed critical access hospital, lab, imaging services, primary care, and OB/GYN care), urgent care, specialty clinics, a Veteran's Affairs Community-Based Outreach Clinic (primary hospital is located in Boise). Most medical care can be accomplished in Mountain Home, and almost everything else in Boise.

According to livability.com, Mountain Home, ID has a population of 16,123, the median income is $54,924 and the median home value is $272,328.
https://www.areavibes.com/mountain+home-id/

Key Findings:

- Mountain Home has a Livability Score of 76/100, which is considered excellent
- Mountain Home crime rates are 25% lower than the Idaho average
- Cost of living in Mountain Home is 1% higher than the Idaho average
- Mountain Home real estate prices are 8% lower than the Idaho average
- Rental prices in Mountain Home are 5% higher than the Idaho average
  https://www.areavibes.com/mountain+home-id/livability/

Mountain Home Livability
#26 ranked city in Idaho
#3,714 ranked city in the USA
Ranks better than **87%** of areas

The current size of membership:
90 (average weekly attendance: ~65)

Languages used in ministry *(other than English)*:
None

Position Title:
Settled

Compensation Level:
Full Time, but will consider three-quarters time.
Maximum compensation is $97,000. A total package to include benefits for full time and experience and will be pro-rated for other time and experience

What is the expected living situation for your next minister?
Residing locally with a housing allowance.

Comment on the residential/commuting expectations for your next minister.
It is expected that the pastor lives here and becomes part of our community.

State any incentives.

- The Church may provide low-interest loans for a down payment on a house, with approval of the church trustees.
- The Church pays for continued learning seminars (in coordination with the Church Council).
- The Church provides transportation/lodging costs for education, conference meetings.
- The Church pays Chamber of Commerce membership dues.
- The Church provides assistance in navigating community activities.
- Health insurance.
- Minister's Annuity.
- Sabbatical after 5 years of service.
- Two weeks' vacation in the first year, four weeks' vacation each year after.
- Moving expenses.

Describe how your vision of the minister you are now seeking will assist the congregation in making an impact beyond its walls.

Our new minister will network with groups and individuals within the community, bringing our church into partnerships that help others. Examples:

- Be a member of the Mountain Home Ministerial Association
- Participate in, and occasionally lead, community interfaith ecumenical services
- Represent/Co-represent the Chamber of Commerce church's membership
- Appreciate the vitality of our community and actively network with churches, organizations, volunteers, auxiliaries, foundations, advisory boards, individuals, etc. (Church members will gladly introduce you.)
- Interact periodically with community groups using the church facility
- Help identify local needs and how the church can cooperatively work with others to help meet those needs
- Inform the congregation of regional, national, and international UCC projects.

Specify language requirements or culturally-specific capacities preferred in the next ministerial leader, and why those matter to the congregation's sense of calling.

1. The Mountain Home area/Elmore County is:
    - A mixture of individuals from across the country, with international experiences
    - Strongly influenced by two economic factors: assorted agriculture production of crops/products and active-duty military personnel/retired military residency

2. Our congregation includes many active duty and retired military personnel and their families. Thus, we have a variety of cultural and Christian faith backgrounds.
    - This quality greatly enhances our church family
    - One of our strong assets is that, even with our differences, we can work together as a dynamic, cohesive community of faith

3. The military dynamic adds unique areas of ministry to our pastor's duties.
    - Influx/outflux of members
    - Safety concerns for overseas family members
    - Support the needs of families of deployed family members

Our Mission and Vision statements were reviewed and rewritten in 2018.

- **Mission:**
  "To bring the word of God to all people through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit"
- **Vision:**
  "To work together to worship God, share our faith in Christ, and enrich our community through service and Christian education"

Several new congregation-driven community partnerships were initiated in the last 20 years. Examples:

- Since 2020 - church sponsors (through member donations) Parks & Recreation's youth soccer teams.

- 2019 - Women's Fellowship *Feed My People, Clothe My People, Love my People* community donations highlights:
  - Harmony House domestic violence shelter - $800 of towels purchased*
  - Ronald McDonald House (RMH) - items for the new Boise RMH that serves all of Idaho
    - Spaghetti meal prep items (boxes & boxes filled with jars of sauce, pounds of pasta, etc.)
    - Clothing (bags of new clothing for families who left home with the clothes on their back/unprepared for a long stay)
    - Gas cards for stranded drivers
    - Monthly donations to the local food bank

- 2019 - Bell Choir purchased (primarily from private donations) a third Octave which:
  - Delights the congregation with increased depth of music, plus
    - Added four bell-ringers, plus substitutes
  - Delights the community through expanded year-round performances in varying locations
    - Community Maundy Thursday, other combined church services, Mountain Home Community Choir concerts, LDS Christmas music weekend, memorials, etc.
  - Comforts and inspires
    - At times there is no more healing salve than music

- 2019 - Updated sanctuary, including:
  - Altar and carpet
  - New member-designed and created fabric art for each of the liturgical seasons.

- Since 2023 - Church Outreach committee
  - Donated school supplies for local school children
  - Participated in the annual AFAD celebration to promote the church and spread the word of our presence in the community

- Since 2005 - Member driven philanthropy
  - Raised $100k for Relay-For-Life cancer research and patient/survivor support
  - Donated 500-600 Christmas presents for underprivileged children as part of the Giving Tree

* Harmony House also received 7 full-size bunk beds from a Scouting BSA Boys Troop 57 Eagle Scout project, which our church has sponsored for over 55 years.

Congregational Reflections





Joe also liked to cook for the church

Joe & Mildred McNeal

"In 1978, Joe B. decided it was time to prepare for retirement from the Air Force. After much thought and discussion, it was decided that our family would retire in Mountain Home, Idaho. We bought a house and became a part of the community of Mountain Home.

Rev. Col. Harold Henderson, who was chief of Chaplains on the Air Force base, was also retiring and becoming the Pastor of First Congregational Church in Mountain Home. Rev. Henderson and Joe B. and I had worked together on Mountain Home Air Force Base to promote diversity at the chapel and on the base. So, he invited our family to join him as members of First Congregational Church.

Joe B. and I visited several churches before considering becoming members of First Congregational Church. We found First Congregational Church to be the friendliest, diverse, caring, and welcoming church. The members are very loving and caring church family who gives, serves, and volunteers at church and throughout the community.

We have now been members of First Congregational Church since 1983."



Syliva Sisneros

"Back in 1979, when we received orders for Mountain Home Air Force Base and settled here, the first thing we did was find a place to live and a church. That's what has always been important for me and my family. We tried a few and decided on the Congregational Church, being we always attended the Protestant Christian Chapel. The first time we attended we were welcomed with such love and caring, made us feel as though we belonged. I have experienced discrimination throughout my life, but this loving congregation gave me no evidence of being. So, I explored the history and beliefs of the Congregational Church and was truly amazed. What I learned would help me achieve my expectations for my family and my future. It's been a gratifying and fulfilling time being a member of this church. When my loving husband of 63 years, Fred, passed away and I lost all sense of living, it was this church family that gave me the support that I needed. Later on, when my

second husband Joe came into my life, he also was welcomed. We were honored to God, Pastor Deral, and our church family to be welcomed with pleasure and approval. Welcomed, I love that word and what it means. That's what we will all experience when we decide to enter the doors at the First Congregational Church."

Paul Ingram

"This church is friendly - the people are nice. I felt at home in this church. I feel relaxed. This church sent me a birthday card; no church has ever done that. I like the way this church does things. They help out people who need it."

The Moehn family

"Our family has been attending service at First Congregational Church since 2023. Since then, we have committed to the church fully. We love everything about our church family. They have shown us what unconditional love and support truly looks like. They have and continue to show us what open arms look like everyday."



11-Year Report Congregational Demographics

Describe those who participate in your church.

		Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)
Number of active members:	85	✓
Number of active non-members:	15	✓
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	100	✓

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)
More than 10 years:	84	✓
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	10	✓
Less than 5 years:	6	✓

The number of total participants by age

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	*Are these numbers an estimate? (check if yes)*
6	3	0	5	6	6	15	30	29	✓

Percentage of adults in various household types

		Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)
Single adults under 35:	2%	✓
Households with minors:	10%	✓
Single adults age 35-65:	3%	✓
Joint households with no minors:	50%	✓
Single adults over 65:	20%	✓

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)
High school:	20%	✓
College:	64%	✓
Graduate School:	12%	✓
Specialty Training:	4%	✓
Other (please specify):		

Percentage of adults by employment types:

		Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)
Adults who are employed:	35%	✓
Adults who are retired:	60%	✓
Adults who are not fully employed:	5%	✓

Describe the range of occupations of working adults in the congregation:

Education, military, government, agriculture, legal, medical, small business owners, warehouse.

Describe the mix of ethnic heritages in your congregation and the overall racial makeup. Most UCC congregations tend to describe themselves as "diverse." Yet, the vast majority of UCC congregations are mono-cultural. What does diversity mean in your context?

- We are an intellectually and experientially rich smorgasbord of people: differing in religious backgrounds, hailing from many regions of the nation, and having widely varying national and international experiences.
- We work locally, at MHAFB, in Boise, and elsewhere. Racially we are similar, with some diversity, but in the end, we all seek God's message of love.

List all current staff, including ministers. Exclude the position you are seeking to fill. Indicate which staff person serves as head of staff.

Staff Position	Head of Staff?	Compensation (full-time, part-time, volunteer)	Supervised by	Length of Tenure for the current person in this position
Minister/interim	No	Part-Time	Trustees	1 month
Secretary	No	Part-Time	Church Council	13 years
Assistant Secretary	No	Part-Time	Church Council	3 years
Custodian	No	Part-Time	Trustees	6 months

REFLECTION

After reviewing the congregational demographics and activities above, what does this information reflect about your congregation's overall ministry?

- We are vibrant, energetic, adaptable, and stable.
- Our 134-year history reflects continual change, preparing financially for the future, and moving forward with God's help. *We welcome a new pastor who embraces our possibilities with faith and enthusiasm*.

CHURCH FINANCES

Current annual income (dollars used during the most recent fiscal year) – *2025 Figures*

Source	**Amount**
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	$126,892.58
Endowment Proceeds *(as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return)*	$30,000.00
Endowment Draw *(beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal")*	
Fundraising Events	
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	$3,620.00
Grants	
Rentals of Church Building	$1,700.00
Rentals of Church Parsonage	
Support from Related Organizations	
Transfers from Special Accounts	$22,135.41
Other (specify): Building Fund	$15,000.00
TOTAL	**$199,347.99**

EXPENSES: 2025	Spent:
Sharing	
OCWM	2,000.00
Scholarships/Missions	500.00
Per Capita - Conference	1,260.00
Per Capita - Pilgrim Cove	672.00
Idaho Association Expenses	42.00
Disadvantaged Persons/Ministerial Assoc.	2,502.24
Special Offerings/Other Sharing*	1,735.25
TOTAL	**8,711.49**
Minister's Expense	
Minister's Salary	36,374.16
FICA (Offset)	4,411.50
Housing Allowance	21,500.00
Minister Annuity	4,000.00
Minister Insurance	18,939.80
Travel	2,600.00
Education	-
Professional	-
Est.additional expenses for new minister	
SUB-TOTAL	***87,825.46***
Substitute Ministers	-
Search for New Minister	7,652.67
TOTAL MINISTER	**95,478.13**
Church Supplies	
Church	780.11
Choir Music/Supplies	1,496.20
Weddings/Funerals	-
Delegates	-
Membership Growth	1,486.46
Nursery Care	20.00
Women's Fellowship (Flowers/Misc.)*	110.00
Social Committee	227.49
TOTAL	**4,120.26**
Christian Education	
Sunday School	225.77
Special Activities	303.21
Vacation Bible School*	-
Camp Scholarships	-
TOTAL	**528.98**
Office	
Bank fees	63.35
Secretary Salary	7,269.84
Secretary FICA/Medicare	556.08
Assistant Secretary Wages	3,798.05
Assistant's FICA/Medicare	290.60
Supplies	-
Postage	752.00
Internet/Computer Programs	115.00
New Equipment	-
Maintenance Agreement	806.24
Equipment Repairs	-
Logo/Website Revision	6,033.88
TOTAL	**19,685.04**

Building	
Church Insurance	13,947.00
Worker's Comp. Insurance	1,181.00
Repairs & Upkeep	1,043.74
Solid Waste Fee (County Tax)	190.88
TOTAL	**16,362.62**
Utilities	
Gas	740.82
Electric	2,680.95
Water/Sewer	3,867.65
Garbage/Recycle	312.24
Telephone	1,656.34
TOTAL	**9,258.00**
Janitor & Yard	
Janitor	7,850.12
Janitor Extra Duties	500.00
FICA	638.83
Substitute Janitor	150.00
Janitor Supplies	-
Yard & Lawn Service (Snow removal)	-
Yard Supplies	-
TOTAL	**9,138.95**
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	**163,283.47**
BUILDING/Special Projects:	
Building Projects(TBD)	-
Building Projects(Capital Expenses)	-
Memorial Projects	700.00
TOTAL	700.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	**163,983.47**
GENERAL REVENUES:	
Pledges/General Donations	100,131.00
Plate	7,931.00
Sunday School	401.04
Special Offerings**	1,735.25
Other Sharing**	-
Alter Flowers (Women's Fellowship)*	50.00
***Women's Fellowship	60.00
Vacation Bible School	-
Church Camp Fees	-
Weddings/Funerals*	-
Use of Building	2,094.00
Misc.	906.17
Bulletin Sponsors	350.00
Transfer from Endowment	6,364.59
Transfer from Savings	22,135.41
GENERAL REV. TOTAL	**142,158.46**
OTHER REVENUES	
Building Fund Pledges	3,375.00
Building Project Donations	-
Transfer from Endowment - Projects	-
Memorials	5,025.00
Minister's Discreationary/Disadvantaged	650.00
Logo/Website Donations	-
OTHER REV. TOTAL	9,050.00
TOTAL REVENUE	**151,208.46**

The above number reflects only the cash deposited into the church's operating account. It does not include Women's Fellowship purchases for the church.

The First Congregational Church is very blessed to have endowment funds, valued at $1,352,438 as of 8-30-26. We have been drawing on these funds mostly when needed for capital projects. There have only been a few years when funds were withdrawn to cover operating expenses:
Draws: 2025-$6,365 2024-$35,000 2019-2023 $0 2018-$12,000 2017-$6,000 2016-$0 2015-$0

Our funds' rules prohibit drawing any of the original principal, plus annual cost of living changes. We intend to always have funds available. Our use of endowment funds is very conservative by design. Our main goal is to be able to maintain our church building well into the future without putting a significant burden on future church members. This also allows us to meet shortfalls of the operating budget on occasion.

Reflection: After reviewing the church's finances and assets described above, what does this information reflect about your congregation's mission and ministry?

We believe our 134-year congregation is responsible and forward-thinking. We are frugal and we plan prudently. We are blessed and fortunate to have financial stability.

Our annual operating budget is developed by the Trustees and voted on by the congregation, initially in November, with final approval at our annual meeting in January. When a large capital expenditure is required, our members step up and give additional dollars to help fund the needed project(s), such as our new roof, installed in 2026.

No cost use of our church building:
2021 – First Friday Quilters
2020 – An Alcoholics Anonymous group
2020 – Scouts BSA added Troop 19 (a girl's troop)
- Since 1966 we have Chartered Scouts BSA Troop 57, Crew 57, and Pack 57 (Cub Scout Pack 57 grew to nearly 80+ children in 2020 and now meets at the Nazarene Church, which accommodates their numbers better. MHUCC remains the Charter Organization.)
2018 – Coordinated with the Red Cross for recurring blood drives
- 24 as of September 2026, collecting approximately 500 units of blood
Prior to 1995 – Polling site for local, state, and national elections



BSA Troop 57 winter camping on Camas Prairie



Troop 19 Award Ceremony

At our 100th Birthday, Former Pastor Rev. Harold Henderson shared:

"Our Church is a guide for people.
We don't dictate views and issues--we share them.
It is important that we not only discuss issues,
it's more important how we apply them to our lives".

Ministerial History

Staff member's name	Years of service	UCC Standing *(Y/N)*
Rev. Deral Schrom (interim) Rev. Gary Smith (interim)	1 mo. (alternating)	N/Nondenominational N/Disciples of Christ
Rev. Derrick Wilcox	13 mos.	N/Nondenominational
Rev. Deral Schrom (interim)	3	N/Nondenominational
Rev. Paul VanAntwerp	14 mos.	Y
Rev. Gary Smith (interim)	2	N/Disciples of Christ
Rev. George Andrew Terry (Designated term)	20 mos.	Y
Rev. Truman Parker	23	Y
Rev. Harold Henderson	10	Y

- ✓ We are welcoming to all, although we have not gone through an official process.
- ✓ We address economic justice and social injustice through our local collaborations.
- ✓ Our congregants have passions that drive their volunteer work transforming lives: protecting our environment; supporting the hurting, disabled, and ill; facilitating voter awareness; stimulating Black History awareness; improving personal and community health; assisting veterans and active duty members/families; protecting and educating children; advocating for the marginalized; supporting visual, literary, theatrical, and musical arts in the community; promoting safety; advocating for agriculture; supporting youth opportunities.
- ✓ We live our love story, "Preaching the Gospel at all times and when necessary, using words," to paraphrase St. Francis of Assisi.
- ✓ We accept as true "God, you may inhabit eternity, but I can only manage one moment at a time. Let that moment be the one I'm in. Amen."

Describe your congregation's participation in ecumenical and interfaith activities.

- MHUCC annual joint ecumenical events/participation: Thanksgiving, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Summer Service in Legacy Park, Vacation Bible School, Christmas Concert, Ministerial Association, and Community Choir.

- Individually, MHUCC members take part with other congregations as co-facilitators, helpers, promoters, and participants: Nazarene - Grief Share; All In Church - Human Trafficking Awareness; Nazarene – Cub Scouts BSA; Catholic - Community Dinner; Grace Lutheran food bank - various Bible studies.

- Traditionally, on a few Sundays each year, our service highlights a specific community service group. Members of the local organization attend worship and serve as liturgists: Black History, Boy and Girl Scouts of America, and Masonic organizations.

What do you hear when you talk to community leaders and ask them what your church is known for?

These are some comments we have heard.

"I have had the privilege of getting to know the First Congregational Church through their Women's Fellowship group the past three years. Because of them, the First Congregational Church means kindness and generosity! They went out of their way to support our nurses and frontline staff. Recently, they supported our 3D Mobile Mammography Campaign. I can't think of a more wonderful group of ladies that represent the First Congregational Church! On an informal note, they are also very fun!!

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further. I can be reached at 563-581-1596 or bheitman21@yahoo.com. Thank you and have a great day!"
William Heitman
Former Executive Director
External Relations
St. Luke's Health System



"Thank you for the opportunity to share with your congregation what it means for us to be offered the use of your facility for our First Friday Quilters Meeting. The First Congregational Church has welcomed us and provided us with a large and comfortable space with all the amenities of tables, chairs, and the occasional use of your multimedia equipment to have our meetings for the last several years and we hope that we have been good stewards of your generosity."
V/R
Susan Rueger
First Friday Quilters

"It has been a great pleasure to work with the wonderful and generous people at First Congregational Church of Mountain Home. We are so appreciative that the church is willing to open its doors for community events and partner with us in presenting and promoting the Arts as we strive to fulfill our mission of entertaining, enriching, and educating the community by presenting and promoting varied artistic and cultural activities.

Over the past several years, we have partnered on hosting a number of professional touring performers, musicians, and storytellers for the community, a unique opportunity for Mountain Home residents to see performing artists of this caliber in their hometown. In addition, performers visit schools, nursing homes, and other community venues as part of their residency. Among the many benefits of these performances is that the performing arts have proven to unify communities, foster health and well-being, and have social impact. Without partner organizations such as First Congregational, these important activities wouldn't be possible.

We are so looking forward to partnering with First Congregational once again in our upcoming season to host the Empire Trio, a New York-based classical crossover ensemble backed by piano and violin, who will be performing 70+ years of classic show tunes from Broadway musicals intermixed with behind-the-scenes stories.

There are so many reasons to say "no" to opportunities and partnerships, but the good people at First Congregational Church have proven over and over again that they say "yes" with their time and resources. For that, we owe an immense debt of gratitude."
Sincerely,
Chris DeVore
Literary Editor
Mountain Home Arts Council

"Women's Fellowship, and most recently, Friday Quilters has welcomed us into your church to share our message of the too often silent pain and prevalence of abuse in our area and the compassion and hope the Harmony House offers.

Thank you for standing in solidarity with the ECDVC as we help abused women with and without children and cooperate with other shelters when victims need to be relocated for safety.
Please know every resident is impacted by your love."
Sincerely,
Kimberly Middleton
Elmore County Domestic Violence Council

"As president of the Mountain home chapter of PEO, I would like to extend our appreciation as a chapter for being able to meet in your church and work with the women's fellowship and the Board of directors to make it possible. The church has a wonderful facility for our meeting space.

We're very grateful that the church has open arms and is so welcoming to us meeting there.
We look forward to a long relationship with the women's fellowship and the board and being able to continue our meetings at the church.
Please feel free to contact me with any questions.
My email is jeanna_still@yahoo.com."
Thank you,
Jeanna Still
PEO Chapter W President

What do new people in the church say when asked what got them involved?

"Safe to be me here".
"Friendly and accepting".
"When I was asked for my thoughts/ideas".
"I feel welcome".

REFERENCES

REFERENCE 1
Chris DeVore
Literary Editor
Mountain Home Arts Council.
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Devore03@msn.com

REFERENCE 2
Jeanna Still
PEO Chapter W President
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REFERENCE 3
William Heitman
Former Executive Director, Elmore Foundation Community Engagement,
St. Luke's Health System
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bheitman21@yahoo.com

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we praise you. Each and every day we strive to listen to do your will. Our church is at a critical junction and we need your guidance. Lord, please guide us to the Shepherd you have chosen for our church. Guide us to do your work more fully, so that this church may faithfully appeal to a broader congregation. Make this Shepherd an instrument of your kindness, peace, love, and hope. In Christ's name, Amen.

"And I will give you shepherds after my own heart,
who will feed you with knowledge and understanding." Jeremiah 3:15

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

The covenantal relationship between a church and those called by that church to serve as pastors and teachers and in other ministerial positions is strengthened when vital information is openly shared by covenantal partners. To that end, we attest that, to the best of our abilities, we have provided information in this profile that accurately represents our church. We have not knowingly withheld any information that would be helpful to candidates.

As the committee charged with the responsibility for identifying and recommending a suitable new minister for our church, we have been authorized to share the information herein with potential candidates. We understand that a candidate may wish to secure further knowledge, information, and opinions about our church.

We encourage a candidate to do so, recognizing that an open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing and healthy relationships between calling bodies and persons seeking a ministry position.

1. Which individuals and groups in the church contributed to the contents of this Local Church Profile?
   The Search Committee is made up of members from the Pastoral Relations Committee from the Church Council, Chair of the Trustees, Finance Committee, Diaconate, and other Senior Leadership personnel.

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:
   "A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit." D. Elton Trueblood

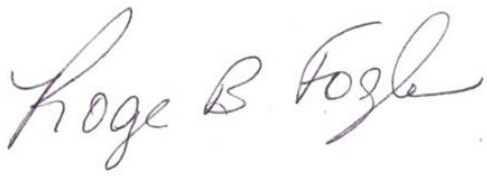
   We are indebted to visionaries of the 1890s who decided to establish a church in Mountain Home, Idaho. Their desire and dedication planted Mountain Home First Congregational Church on July 17, 1892. Every Sunday we sit in the shade of their love and labors. In return, we work to be good stewards of their gift and we continue their legacy of generosity to others by planting seeds of assistance, compassion, and solidarity within our community and elsewhere.

   We seek a settled pastor who 1) wants to lead us in our spiritual growth, 2) will inspire us to see Christ in everyone, and 3) will join us, shovel in hand, in planting more shade trees of Christ's love under which others may rest.

   We and each prospective pastor are at mutually crucial points in our growth discernment. May God be our guide.



Linda Ramsey
Search Committee Chairman
Date: 7 Oct 26



Roger Fogleman
Search Committee Co-Chairman
Date: 7 Oct 26

This document is created through support to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and is only possible through the covenantal relationships of all settings of the United Church of Christ.

"Jesus answered them, 'Have faith in God!'" – Mark 11:22

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FIRST Congregational Church MOUNTAIN HOME - IDAHO