

## **IDAHO IS MORE THAN JUST POTATOES!!**

We are:

Microchip-makers, outdoor adventure guides, researchers & Olympians

Together we enjoy:

Classical music, rodeos, skiing, & ethnic celebrations

The "Gem State" is home to:

Five Native American Tribes, cowgirls, fighter pilots, Peruvian sheep herders & 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 & world.



Church name: **First Congregational Church of Mountain Home**

Street address: **515 East 15<sup>th</sup> North, Mountain Home, ID 83647**

Supplemental web links: <http://www.mhfcucc.org>

Conference: **Central Pacific Conference**

Association: **Idaho**

Rev. Tyler Connoley, Conference Minister

**Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ**

**PO Box 22588, Portland, OR 97269 503-228-3178 [tyler@cpcucc.org](mailto:tyler@cpcucc.org)**

### Summary Ministry Description:

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

**We all have intentionally chosen our UCC Church as our spiritual home and we have thrived! We are grateful! For 132 years we worshipped, wept, 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, grandparents who bring grandchildren, and seniors. *We want others to join us! We want to enlarge our impact!* Our church is run by the congregation for the overall operations of church life. We rotate responsibilities, communicate between boards, trustees, minister, and congregation, initiate repairs and additions/updates for our physical structure, have sound financials, and care about each other and our community and world.**

*We need a pastor who will work with us individually, as well as collectively, to guide, teach, comfort, and stretch 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 the community's wider needs 5) is passionate about ministry and loves people**

Photographs: Jason Farham, performing inside MHUCC  
sanctuary, sponsored by MH 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, 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. Our area is noted for its wealth of groomed snowmobile paths. Idaho Fish and Game Unit 39 is our backyard with multiple hunting seasons. 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 F15 pilots and families. U.S. Marines with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron (VMFAT) 501 are training at MHAFB and Qatar pilots could be training here soon.

**Agriculture** Elmore County has 358,454 farm acres of alfalfa, wheat, potatoes, grain, onions, other crops, and pasture land. Cattle and dairy are the area's two leading agricultural sectors. Elmore County agriculture brought in \$487 million in revenue in 2019 ranking it 7th out of Idaho's 44 counties. (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis) In 2017, 96 % of all farms were family farms with 14 % 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, Albertsons, Johnson Brothers Hospitality, Inventive-Group (Inventive Projects, In The Ditch, Razorback Offroad UTV Accessories, Fish Fighter Products), Wolfe Pack Pellets, and more.

**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 Mountain Home Air Force Base. The Mountain Home Arts Council produces live performances of music, drama, local talent variety shows, or dinner theater. The visual arts guild showcases local artists at the library and other venues. 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 the Air Force Base with a parade and free barbecue lunch for thousands. Vendors from everywhere, bands, and activities make this a lively week.

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

**The current size of membership:**

85 (average weekly attendance, 52)

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

**Position Title:**

Settled

**Compensation Level**

Full Time but will consider three-quarters time

See section 1c for details.

**1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT**

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**Maximum \$95,000. A total package to include benefits for full time and experience and will be prorated 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 in and becomes part of our community.**

State any incentives

- **The Church may provide low-interest funds for a down payment on a house.**
- **Sabbatical after 5 years of service.**
- **Church pays for continued learning seminars**
- **Church provides transportation/lodging costs for education, conference meetings**
- **Church pays Chamber of Commerce membership dues**
- **Provide assistance navigating community activities.**

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 desire to network 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.**  
(We 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 the need**
- **Inform 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 national mixture of individuals, with international experience.
  - 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 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 2019 and 2020. Examples:**

- **Since 2020 - Our church sponsors (through a member donation) 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 - items for the new Boise RMH that serves all of ID**
    - **Spaghetti meal prep items (boxes & boxes filled with jars of sauce, pounds of pasta, etc.)**
    - **Clothing (bags & bags of new clothing for families who left home with the clothes on their back/unprepared for a long stay)**
    - **Gas cards (\$500)**
    - **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**
    - **prompted sanctuary updating**
      - **altar and carpet**
      - **now features stunning, member-designed/created, original fabric art that changes with the liturgical seasons**
  - **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**

\*\* 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.

### 3a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS



**Joe & Mildred McNeal**



Joe also like to cook for the church

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 Chaplin's 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.





### 3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

#### CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	90	✓
Number of active non-members:	9	✓
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	99	✓

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
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+	<i>Are these numbers an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
6	3	0	5	6	6	15	30	28	✓

Percentage of adults in various household types

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
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:

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

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
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, 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 international experience.**
- **We work locally, at Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB), in Boise, and elsewhere. Racially we are similar, with some diversity.**

**Given the diverse Mountain Home area population, membership opportunities exist.**

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
<b>Minister/interim</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<b>Trustees</b>	<b>2 years</b>
<b>Secretary/Asst</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<b>Church Council</b>	<b>11 Years/6mos</b>
<b>Custodian</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>	<b>Trustee's</b>	<b>2 Years</b>

## 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 132-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.***

## 3e. CHURCH FINANCES

Current annual income (dollars used during the most recent fiscal year) – 2023 Figures

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	<b>\$98,978.88</b>
Endowment Proceeds ( <i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i> )	<b>13,294.53</b>
Endowment Draw ( <i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i> )	
Fundraising Events	
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	
Grants	
Rentals of Church Building	<b>1,185</b>
Rentals of Church Parsonage	
Support from Related Organizations	
Transfers from Special Accounts	
Other (specify): Building/Building Project Donations	<b>3,145</b>
Other (specify):	<b>4,675</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$121,278.41</b>

<b>EXPENSES: 2023</b>	<b>Spent:</b>	<b>Christian Education</b>	
		Sunday School	29.15
<b>Sharing</b>		Special Activities	77.10
OCWM	3,000.00	Vacation Bible School*	-
Scholarships/Missions	-	Camp Scholarships	-
Per Capita - Conference	1,260.00	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>106.25</b>
Per Capita - Pilgrim Cove	360.00	<b>Office</b>	
Idaho Association Expenses	45.00	Bank fees	72.73
Disadvantaged Persons/Ministerial As	525.00	Secretary	10,499.00
Special Offerings/Other Sharing*	2,428.00	FICA/Medicare	803.21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,618.00</b>	Substitute Secretary	-
<b>Minister's Expense</b>		Supplies	-
Minister's Salary	33,000.00	Postage	664.00
FICA (Offset)	2,983.56	Internet/Computer Programs	115.00
Housing Allowance	6,000.00	New Equipment	-
Minister Annuity	-	Maintenance Agreement	626.31
Minister Insurance	-	Equipment Repairs	-
Travel	2,400.00	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,780.25</b>
Education	-	<b>Building</b>	
Professional	-	Church Insurance	11,814.25
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>44,383.56</b>	Worker's Comp. Insurance	1,185.00
Substitute Ministers	600.00	Repairs & Upkeep	419.66
Search for New Minister		Solid Waste Fee (County Tax)	157.76
<b>TOTAL MINISTER</b>	<b>44,983.56</b>	Piano Tuning	320.00
<b>Church Supplies</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,896.67</b>
Church	976.16	<b>Utilities</b>	
Choir Music/Supplies	1,234.06	Gas	1,050.47
Weddings/Funerals	200.00	Electric	1,852.79
Delegates	-	Water/Sewer	3,755.94
Membership Growth	1,422.54	Garbage/Recycle	271.92
Women's Fellowship (Flowers/Misc.)*	150.00	Telephone	1,627.30
Social Committee	237.10	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,558.42</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,219.86</b>		
<b>Janitor &amp; Yard</b>		<b>GENERAL REVENUES:</b>	
Janitor	7,325.08	Pledges/General Donations	90,778.63
Janitor Extra Duties	300.00	Plate	4,352.76
FICA	598.67	Sunday School	415.50
Substitute Janitor	100.00	Special Offerings**	1,808.00
Janitor Supplies	-	Other Sharing**	620.00
Yard & Lawn Service (Snow removal)	-	Alter Flowers (Women's Fellowship)*	150.00
Yard Supplies	61.18	***Women's Fellowship	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,384.93</b>	Vacation Bible School	-
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>100,547.94</b>	Church Camp Fees	-
		Weddings/Funerals*	50.00
<b>BUILDING/Special Projects:</b>		Use of Building	1,185.00
Building Projects(TBD)	13,294.53	Misc.	453.99
Building Projects(Capital Expenses)	5,628.09	Bulletin Sponsors	350.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,922.62</b>	Transfer from Endowment	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>119,470.56</b>	Transfer from Savings	
		<b>GENERAL REV. TOTAL</b>	<b>100,163.88</b>
		<b>OTHER REVENUES</b>	
		Building Fund Pledges	3,145.00
		Building Project Donations	-
		Transfer from Endowment	13,294.53
		Memorials	4,675.00
*Donations for Alter Flow ers transferred to Women's Fellow ship		Children's Projects	-
**Donations transferred directly to the Central Pacific Conference		<b>OTHER REV. TOTAL</b>	<b>21,114.53</b>
***Women's Fellow ship pays half of Scholarships and Nursery Care		<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>121,278.41</b>

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 \$1,039,305 as of 7-31-24. We have been drawing on these funds mostly when needed for capital projects. There have only been a few years where funds were drawn to cover operating expenses.: Draws: 2019-23 \$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 132-year congregation is responsible and forward-thinking. We are frugal. 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.

No cost use of our church building:

2021 – First Friday Quilters

2020 – An AA group

2020 - Scouts BSA added Troop 19 (a girl 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.)



**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)
<b>Rev. Deral Schrom (interim)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>N/nondenominational</b>
<b>Rev. Paul VanAntwerp</b>	<b>14 mos.</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Rev. Gary Smith (interim)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>N/Disciples of Christ</b>
<b>Rev. George Andrew Terry (Designated term)</b>	<b>20 mos.</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Rev. Truman Parker</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Rev. Harold Henderson</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Y</b>

- ✓ **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/community health - assisting veterans & active duty members/families - protecting/educating children - advocating for the marginalized - supporting visual, literary, theatrical & musical community arts - 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 Scouts of America, and Masonic organizations.**

According to livability.com <https://livability.com/id/mountain-home/>

Mountain Home, ID has a population of 16,703, the median income is \$50,548 and the median home value is \$250,000.

<https://www.areavibes.com/mountain+home-id/>

#### Key Findings

- Mountain Home has a [Livability Score](#) of 74/100, which is considered excellent
- Mountain Home crime rates are 28% lower than the Idaho average
- Cost of living in Mountain Home is 2% higher than the Idaho average
- Mountain Home real estate prices are 2% lower than the Idaho average
- Rental prices in Mountain Home are 4% lower than the Idaho average

<https://www.areavibes.com/mountain+home-id/livability/>

#### Mountain Home Livability

#78 ranked city in Idaho

#8,917 ranked city in the USA

Ranks better than 69% of areas

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

**These are some of what we hear.**

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 have 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 208-850-6412 or [heitmanw@slhs.org](mailto:heitmanw@slhs.org)

Thank you and have a great day!

William Heitman  
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  
Executive Director  
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

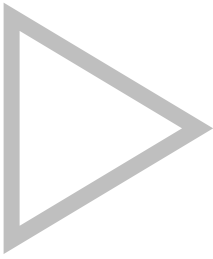
What do new people in the church say when asked what got them involved?

*“Safe to be me here”.*

*“Friendly and accepting”.*

*“When I was asked for my thoughts/ideas”.*

*“I feel welcome”.*



## **5 REFERENCES**

### **REFERENCE 1**

**Chris DeVore**  
**Executive Director**  
**Mountain Home Arts Council.**  
**208-587-3706**  
[mh-arts@qwestoffice.net](mailto:mh-arts@qwestoffice.net)

### **REFERENCE 2**

**Susan Rueger**  
**First Friday Quilters**  
**208-591-0111**

### **REFERENCE 3**

**William Heitman**  
**Executive Director, Elmore Foundation Community Engagement,**  
**St. Luke's Health System**  
**208-587-6291**  
[heitmanw@slhs.org](mailto:heitmanw@slhs.org)



## 6. CLOSING THOUGHTS



- a. CLOSING PRAYER
- b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT
- c. CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION VALIDATION

### 6a. 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*

### 6b. 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 (made up of Assistant Moderator, Historian, Social Committee, and Pastoral Relations Committee from the Church Council, and Chair of the Trustees), Finance Committee, 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.

Gail Banner

Gail Banner

Search Committee Chairman

Date: Nov. 8, 2024

### 6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

The congregation is currently in good standing with the Central Pacific Conference.

Staff Comment:

To the best of my knowledge, ministerial history information is complete.

Staff Comment:

To the best of my knowledge, available church financial information is presented thoroughly.

Staff Comment:

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature:

Name / Title:

Email:

Phone:

Date:

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



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*