



JULY 2023 VOLUME 21 ISSUE 7

THE NUGGET

United Church of Christ, Calaveras

It is such a blessing to be able to come together under the majestic Sequoias in praise and worship! More photos from the Big Trees camp trip inside.



"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of autumn."

—John Muir

"The Mountains of California"

A Word from Rev. Penny



I'm feeling very lucky. I've never been a parish pastor before. My time in the Tenderloin was more a street ministry. So I didn't know what to expect from filling in, half time, for Pastor Bonnie. What would it be like to preach twice a month and do some pastoral care? Would it feel burdensome? Intimidating to be on a preaching schedule?

Well, it's been joyful! What a lovely congregation this is! I knew that from attending the church, but feel it even more now during this fill-in time as worship leader. It is an energizing experience to lead worship with a group of people so attentive, kind, full of good will and humor and right there. As a former teacher, I have had the experience of feeling lonely and stranded in front of a disinterested group. That is never my experience on Sunday mornings. Thank you!

And my, how things get done. I arrive, the bulletins are ready, the liturgist is there, the audio-visual is ready to go, the altar is set, the wall hangings are up, the ushers are poised. The music is chosen and always wonderful. After family time in the service the children go off, well in the care of their leaders. After the service the coffee is ready, snacks are on the table along with the Aria goodies. And before the service, people are greeted, name tags on the table, warm welcomes offered.

And that's just the worship service.

Meanwhile the committees meet and do their work. An overnight camping trip with all its logistics happens and provides great fun for all. The congregational meeting goes off without a hitch, the finances are laid out clearly, officers are chosen. The office runs smoothly. And all this in the midst of a merger. Two buildings to attend to, two congregations learning to be one.

It's amazing what a functional community can pull off even with a temporary substitution in pastoral leadership. It's not just me who's lucky. Thanks be to God, we all are!

In gratitude, Penny



Treasurer's Article

We had a successful Congregational meeting this month. I did a presentation on the Endowment funds and the current financial status of the Church. Financially things are going well, and I did not recommend a Budget adjustment. I

continue to study the Endowment funds and research the best way to monitor these funds in the future. The Finance and Facilities committee is still working on revising the Endowment Policy, hopefully we will have it done by the December Congregational meeting. It will require a vote by the Congregation if we change it. Please let me know if you have any questions about the finances or the Endowment funds. Have a wonderful summer.

-Patty

Important info about the Peddlers' Faire:

The Peddlers' Fair is coming up on August 25-26 and there have been a few questions from folks. This will NOT be an all church yard sale, as it has been in years past. Everyone is still welcome to rent a double booth space to sell any items they may have. The cost is \$40 and it is for the entire weekend. If you have any more questions, contact Joe Jackson (209)753-7616



Small Group Meetings This Month:

TBD:

**Angels Angels
11am at Union UCC
Contact Barbara Olivier**

July 11:

**South Grove Bunch
5:30pm at UCC Murphys
Contact Faye Morrison.**

July 14:

**The Wanderers
10 am in Murphys home
Contact Marilyn Baisel.**

July 18:

**Cottage Circle
5:30pm in Murphys home
Contact Meg Self.**

July 25:

**Small Group #5
10am in Murphys home
Contact Pam Kimes.**

***note that our Family Program Small Group will not be meeting during the summer. They will be back in September.**



*There will be a
Taizé worship
service on July
30 at 7pm in the
Sanctuary.*



*The Knitters and Hookers will
have their next gathering on
July 19. They meet on the 3rd
Wednesday of the month from
11am - 2pm at
Liz Tussey's house.*

Moderator's Message

Another month has just whizzed by, and now we will be seeing our beloved Pastor Bonnie in just one more month! I have been totally enjoying our substitute pastors, Pastor Marty, Pastor Penny and Pastor Mickey. All three have been truly inspiring and have delivered apt and enlightening messages. It has certainly been a joy to have Dr. Daryl back as well. I missed the booming organ sounds!



Progress is being made on organizing, cataloging, and packing up items at the Union Church location. If you have a spare moment, contact Vicky Oneto (209-743-8335) to volunteer time. They still need help with various things including inventory and moving things to the thrift store, dump, etc. Also, we are having an outdoor workday there on July 8th at 8:00 AM. If you like gardening and weeding, please join us for a couple hours of yard work.

The family camping event in early June at Big Trees State Park was a great success and was once again well attended. The kids had a blast, and it was a lovely relaxing time for the adults. Thank you to the adults who made their way up to the park for worship on Sunday.

VBS planning is underway so be sure to mark your calendars for you children or grandchildren to attend August 7-11 at the church campus. The volunteers are enthusiastic about the curriculum this year and are eager to welcome your children to camp. Also, signups are ongoing for summer camp at Camp Tamarack. Give Tanya Sundberg a call if you have a child who'd like to go. Book Study with Liz Tussey is ongoing now, so give Liz a call if you'd like to join.

Enjoy this lovely early summer, and I'll see you soon in worship!

Blessings,

Carrie Shinn
Moderator



Christian Education Recap

**ARNOLD RIM TRAIL GROUP
HIKE SUNDAY JULY 9
AFTER CHURCH. CONTACT
THE CHRISTIAN
ENRICHMENT TEAM FOR
MORE DETAILS.**



Book Study meetings:

July 13, 2 - 5pm

July 27, 2 - 5

The Book Club is part of our Christian Education program and meets every other Thursday in the Eastman Education Center. Contact Patty Haskell or Liz Tussey for more details.



We had a great camping trip up at Big Trees at the beginning of June. We had 21 campers and over 30 people at the worship service. Thanks to Tanya Sundberg for arranging the trip and to Joe Jackson for all his help with set up, cooking and clean up. On Saturday, I took a group on a South Grove hike and Teddie took a group on a Meadow hike. Others relaxed at the campground and enjoyed the peace and quiet. Looking forward to camping again next year.

The older Sunday School class just started a study of Justice for the summer. There have been interesting, thought-provoking discussions. The younger group have been studying "What I believe in my heart is what I show in my actions".

They have heard stories about Mary, Clara Burton, Mother Theresa, Helen Keller, and Anne Sullivan. We have a hike planned for July 9th to Cougar Rock on the Arnold Rim Trail. This hike should be another great adventure. Vacation Bible School is August 7-11 for children 4-11 years old. The older students will be helpers this year. Please let me know if you would like to help with VBS or would like to join us for the hike.

Thanks, Patty



Family Camp at Big Trees State Park June 2 - 4





Recycling is picked up at the church on the first Wednesday of every other month at 9am sharp. The next recycling pick up will be on July 5.

RING THE BELL FOR PEACE



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE GATHER ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT NOON IN PRAYERS FOR PEACE AND THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL.

Congratulations to our Unsung Heroes!



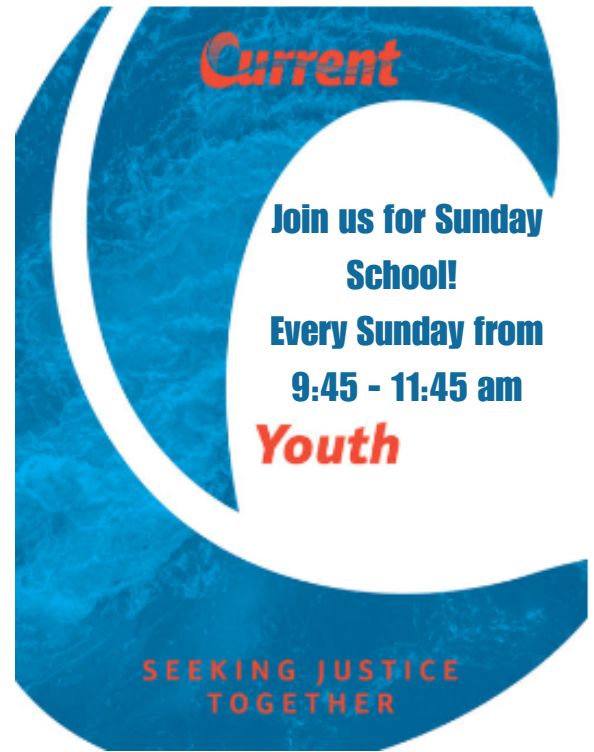
The recipients of this year's Unsung Hero Award were Shad and Tanya Sundberg. They were presented with the award by last year's recipients, Matt and Liz Graham at the Congregational Meeting on June 11. We are so blessed for our committed members who give so much back to their church community.

Hurray for Tanya and Shad!



We need all hands on deck for the outdoor work day on July 8 at 8am. We will be cleaning up the UCC Union campus in Angels Camp. Weeding, raking, and hauling all need to be done. It shouldn't be too hot at that time of day and many hands make light work. If you can help, we'd love to see you!

United Church of Christ, Calaveras is proud to have a variety of programs for children over the summer. In addition to our family camping trip and monthly community events, we also offer more structured Christ-based education.



Camp Tamarack registration is open!

Junior Camp (grades 4 - 6): July 16 - 22

Junior High Camp (grades 7 - 9): July 23 - 29

Senior High Camp (grades 9 - 12): July 30 - August 5

Email christianed@fccmurph.org for more details.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

AUGUST 7- 11, 2023

9AM - 12PM

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,
CALAVERAS**

**CALL CHURCH OFFICE TO REGISTER
(209)728-3141**

VBS IS PROVIDED AT NO COST



Upcoming Events:



Worship at White Pines
August 20th, 10am



BREWS AND BRATS



SEPTEMBER 23 AT UNION UCC IN
ANGELS CAMP. STAY TUNED FOR
MORE DETAILS!



HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS & EDUCATION

SAVE THE DATE!

Our (27th Annual) 2023 Walk for Hope will be held on first day of fall!

Start thinking about forming your teams now!

Saturday, September 23, 2023

Calaveras Big Trees State Park



Jeff Chadwick 2
Faye Morrison 2
Elaine Lewis 5
Wendy Glessman 8
Teglene Ryan 12
Lynne Klein 15
Wendy Black 18
Edna Robbers 20
Noel Helmbrecht 22
Valerie Shinn 24
Anthony Armstrong 25
Mandy DeSmidt 26
Karl Graves 31

The scriptures tell us: “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

We continue to witness the stories of how God answers our prayers!

God hears our cries and answers them.

Let us pray daily for the following members and friends of our community:

All those who are ill:

Anna Wright
Dodi Horvath
Gail Williams
Tommy Pratt
Tom Black
Gail Withuhn
Shirley Soderer
Tabitha Kremesec
Hilary Oldenkamp
Angela Patterson
Tracey Ellifritz
Maggie Di Dio
John G.
Neil P.

JULY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		11am Angels Angels Sm. Group: date TBD, contact Barbara Olivier				1
10am Worship Marty	1pm F&F mtg. ZOOM	4th of July Holiday office closed July 3-4	12pm Ring the Bell for Peace 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon			8 8am Outdoor Work Day at Union
10am Worship Penny 11am OSJ meetig Group hike after worship	6:45pm Al-Anon	11am Ad-Hoc merger meeting location TBD 5:30 - 7:30pm South Grove Bunch Sm. Grp. EEC	12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	2 - 5pm Book Club EEC 4pm CE mtg. via Zoom	12pm Women's AA 10am The Wanderers Sm. Grp. in Murphys 12pm Women's AA	15
10am Worship Marty 11am Council Mtg.	6:45pm Al-Anon		11am Knitters and Hookers 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon			22
10am Worship Penny	6:45pm Al-Anon	5:30pm Cottage Circle Sm. Grp.	12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	2 - 5pm Book Club EEC	12pm Women's AA	29
10am Worship Penny Taizé 10am	6:45pm Al-Anon	10am Sm. Grp. in Murphys	12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon			

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

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Phone: 209.728.3141

JULY 2023

DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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*First Congregational Church of Murphys
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST*

THE NUGGET

Staff

Pastor Rev. Dr. Bonnie Hollinger

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. John Randlett

Music Director Dr. Daryl Hollinger

Secretary Jenny Fuqua

Custodian Peter Marai-Muro

Christian Ed. Director Patty Haskell

Childcare Shayanna DuCharme

Officers

Moderator Carrie Shinn

Vice Moderator Barbara Olivier

Clerk Marie Studebaker

Treasurer Patty Haskell

Assistant Treasurer Shad Sundberg

Financial Secretary Gary Carson-Hull



www.ucc.org

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, MURPHYS MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that all people are beloved by God and we strive to serve as a welcoming and nurturing church community to discern the Bible with insight for today and to live out Christ's teachings.

The Nugget Committee invites you to submit articles of interest and wishes to stress that the deadline is always the 15th of each month.

The Committee reserves the right to edit submissions for length and content.