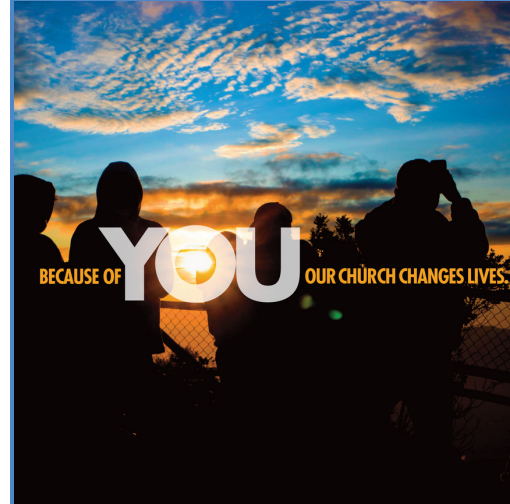




OCTOBER 2023 VOLUME 21 ISSUE 10

THE NUGGET

United Church of Christ



Our Stewardship theme this fall is "Because of You Our Church Changes Lives". The topics that will be covered are:

- A Theology of Sufficiency
- Stewardship for a Thriving Planet
- Stewardship for Liberation
- What Jonah Learned About Abundance

To begin our focus on giving, the NCNC's Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields will be coming to our church on October 22. We are so excited to welcome her!

Whoever you are,
Wherever you are on
life's journey,
You are welcome here.



Pastor's Article

One of the greatest things about our Church is the way we care and serve each other. Many of you do this daily and we never hear about all the beautiful deeds you do. So, I offer a huge thank you to you all.

One of the groups that specifically addresses individual needs is our Parish Care Team. They are always ready to help when asked. Recently they have had a deluge of needs to fulfill and we are so grateful for this ministry.

I thought it might help to explain a bit more what this team can and cannot do.

*They can deliver meals for a short period of time.

*They can see that you get a ride to the doctor or to the store.

*They can pick up medications and other supplies for you on a temporary basis.

*They pray and visit with you, offering spiritual and emotional support.

All of this is short term. If someone needs long term help in their home, this is not the mission of the Parish Care Team. **Our members of this team are trained in being confidential, listening, and caring with empathetic hearts.** They can get you some help in a crisis.

It is not appropriate for them to:

*clean your home

*help you bathe or get dressed

*transport you to standing appointments every week

*provide daily meals for longer than two weeks

*receive phone call after reasonable hours

*offer therapeutic counseling

While our Parish Care Team are true angels and comfort us beyond measure, they cannot do everything. There are other agencies that can provide these services. You can call the church office or Pastor Bonnie and you will be directed to where you can receive aid. We have lists of agencies and brochures in the social hall as well.

Faithfully Serving With You, Pastor Bonnie



*There will be a
Taizé
worship service
on Oct. 29 at
10am in the
Sanctuary*



*Pause, Pray, Play...
Pastor Bonnie will be
giving a presentation
on her sabbatical on
Sunday, October 1st at
church. Please sign up
on the sheet in the
Social Hall.*



Treasurer's Article



The 2024 budget process has begun. At the Council meeting in September, I handed out to committee chairs the budget request form. This form is used to determine each committee's budget for next year. These forms are due to me at the October Council meeting. After this information is received the Budget committee, which consists of the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Moderator, a member of the Pastor Relations committee and the Chair of the Personnel committee meet. Then the Budget committee will generate a proposed budget and present to the Finance and Facilities committee for approval. If approved, it will go to the Council for approval, and then to the Congregation for approval on December 10th. There are usually changes and modifications along the way. Please let me know if you have any questions about this process.

Thanks, Patty



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 Nov. 1.



The Knitters and Hookers will have their next gathering on Oct. 18. They meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 11am - 2pm at Liz Tussey's house.

Moderator's Message

Happy Fall! And what a glorious one it has been thus far. So lovely to finally get through the dog days of summer!

Be sure to watch the weekly emails and calendar of events, as there are lots of upcoming happenings to be aware of. Our dear Gail Withun's memorial service will be October 14th at 3:00 PM in the Murphys Sanctuary. Connie Cook is planning a volunteer appreciation event at the Diggins in Murphys for October 25th, so watch for your invitation to that.



Stewardship season kicks off on October 22nd with special speaker Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields, one of our esteemed conference ministers. You will not want to miss our 3 speakers who will deliver stewardship messages each Sunday starting on the 22nd as well. We will again host our traditional Stewardship brunch on November 5th; you won't want to miss that! Be sure and take a look at the newly created Stewardship Bulletin board in the social hall – lots of great information there!

Things are moving along apace with the sale of the Union Congregational campus. The party of interest is the St. Gabriel Orthodox Church in Angels Camp, who intends to use the property for their growing congregation. The members I have worked with are just delightful and are super excited to take the property to the next level. Price and terms have been negotiated, but we await approval from their diocese to proceed. We hope to have this approval before the end of September. Many folks have helped facilitate this progress, including Connie Cook working in the Union kitchen, Patty Haskell in cleaning out the Sunday School room, and Joe Jackson dealing with security issues, a yard sale, etc. Many thanks are owed to Jeff and Sandra Sather's efforts on the back hillside, and other assorted onerous tasks, as well.

Watch your calendar too for Advent activities. The Christian Enrichment team, ably led by new team leader Evelyn Betts, has been busy planning for the holiday season. The traditional Advent workshop will be held December 3rd, and we hope to have plenty of our families in attendance.

Enjoy this glorious weather, and I will see you in worship!

Many Blessings,

Carrie Shinn



Small Group Meetings:

Oct. 3 & 17: Family Program

5:30pm in Social Hall

Contact Evelyn Betts

Oct. 10: South Grove Bunch

5:30pm in Eastman

Contact Faye Morrison

Oct. 13: The Wanderers

10am in Murphys

Contact Marilyn Baisel.

Oct. 17: Cottage Circle

10 am in Murphys home

Contact Meg Self.

Oct. 24: Small Group #5

10am in Murphys home

Contact Pam Kimes.

Oct. 25: Angels Angels

11am in Social Hall

Contact Barb Olivier.



Christian Education Recap

We have a number of exciting activities planned for the remainder of this year. Please see the schedule below. We need helpers for the family program dinner.

Please let Jenny know if you can help set up, clean up, or bring food.



Calling all Quilters!

If you want to join our church quilters, please call Mary Kelly at (209)443-4490

Fall 2023 Family Program Dates: *please note we begin at 5:30pm*

Oct. 3 & 17

Nov. 7

Dec. 5 & 12

Upcoming Christian Enrichment events:

Oct. 29: Sunday School activity after church

Dec. 3: Advent Workshop at 4pm

Dec. 17: Children's Christmas Pageant at Worship

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve game night at church



JOIN US

New Member class and luncheon on October 29 - we are continuing our new member classes and are thrilled to have people joining our congregation. If you are interested in our church, please contact Pastor Bonnie and join the class.

Say hello to our new Committee Chairs...

Worship:



Liz Graham

Christian Enrichment:



Evelyn Betts

Membership & Calling Co-chairs:



Laura Leonard



Hilary Oldenkamp

Resource Connection Food bags can now be brought to the Social Hall at any time. We'll have a designated spot to place them and Peggy Sparrow or one of her helpers will collect the bags on a regular basis and take them to the Resource Connection. We ask our church family to continue to help their neighbors in need.



BOOK STUDY SPECIAL GUEST

Our thriving Book Study Group is enjoying THE BOOK OF JOY by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond TuTu.

The Dalai Lama states that a question that he gets more than any other is “how could they possibly live with joy in a world so filled with sorrow and suffering, not just theirs, but others?” The Archbishop responds with “people are capable of fantastic goodness.” Doctors Without Borders go to all parts of the world into poverty stricken, dangerous places ravaged by poor health and disease. They are showing their humanity/compassion and we have two past members of our congregation who did just that as many of you do today.

Nancy Burton, recently came to share the story of her parents, Dr. Clark Burton and Carol Burton. In 1991 they became part of a dental clinic that traveled to Nepal. The little village of Namche Bazaar had never before seen a dentist or a technician.

Dr. Clark Burton and Carol Burton joined another physician to create a training program for technicians to work as dental therapists. Dr. Burton taught local people how to do root canals and many other dental procedures. Nancy has recreated their experience with articles, photos, and her mother’s journal, all of which described conditions at 11,300 feet in a remote village. Even the landing field was very scary and getting through customs with a dental x-ray machine was a challenge.

*Today, the dental clinic is located at the highest elevation in the world and serves local people. The facility is utilized by the Peace Corp and UNESCO, and provided therapies, fillings, cleanings, and an educational program for children. The sharing of this story allows us to envision how we might help others today. Come join us for our next special guest, Rev. Mickey Williamson who will speak on the practice of meditation. **Submitted by Liz Tussey***



Book Study meetings:

Oct. 12, 2 - 4pm

Oct. 26, 2 - 4pm

The Book Club is part of our Christian Education program and meets every other Thursday in the Eastman Education Center.



JOIN OUR CHOIRS!

Choir will sing 1st, 2nd, 4th Sundays with rehearsals at 9:00 before the 10:00 service. We will start out by having an extended rehearsal after worship on the 4th Sunday to go over the anthems for the following month.

We certainly can tweak the schedule as the need arises. We will need extra rehearsals for our Advent/Christmas Season.

Bell Choir rehearsals will begin on Saturday, October 7 at 10 a.m.

If you have any interest in singing or playing bells, please contact Dr. Daryl Hollinger at 209-265-6716 or email: dhollingermusic@gmail.com

Thank you so much for the great gift of music you offer to our community.





The Sierra Walk for Hope on September 23 was a huge success, we raised over \$400! Many thanks to all volunteers who made this happen. Special thanks to our walkers, Nicholas Abando, Patty Haskell, Matt Graham, June and Gilbert Perry, Norma Fritsche, Mary Kelly, Trish McCormick Pastor Bonnie and to the chair of our Outreach and Social Justice team, Lynne Bird.

I have been logging my exercise miles walked since July 1 to raise funds for the church and two other local organizations dear to my heart. My last day is September 30! Total mileage will be somewhere around 250.

Many people have either given a flat donation or pledged per mile to support me. It's not too late! Donations are accepted through October 7. You can either give money directly to me to be distributed three ways (text me for more information: 209-890-9553), or you can simply support the church by making a donation to the church in support of my walk. Thank you!

Rev. Mickey



Upcoming Events

Artist: Alexis
Age: 15
Congregation: Trinity United
Church of Christ,
St. Louis MO

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2023
ucc.org/nin



"God saw everything God made and behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:31

We will be having our annual Neighbors in Need offering on October 1, 2023. NIN is a special mission offering of the UCC that sponsors ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.



The Outreach and Social Justice Team will again be having a Halloween Candy Drive for the residents on Rocky Hill Road. Last year we were able to provide a bag to every residence that handed candy out to the kids and we hope to repeat that this year! Contact Lynne Bird for more details.

The Resource Connection will be distributing WIC resources in the Social Hall on the 2nd Thursday of every other month from 9am to 4pm. The next distribution date is October 12.



NCNC UCC Annual Fall Gathering is via zoom on Saturday, November 18 at 10 a.m. We will be voting on the budget and the recommendation of Rev. Davena Jones as the Conference Minister. Visit <https://ncncucc.org/annual-gathering/> to register or call the church office. We need two voting delegates to attend so call Pastor Bonnie if you are able to participate. The meeting is open to everyone.





Kevin Gaines 1
Christine Mongsene 3
Sally Smith 5
Shirley Soderer 5
Ed Williams 6
Helen Yost 6
Kristen Schott 8
Laura Leonard 9
Barbara Olivier 9
Jane Hampel 10
Brian Mason 10
Steve Stange 10
Hazel Shinn 14
Alan Armstrong 18
Patty Haskell 19
Lynne Bird 21
Fred Hampel 22
Mara Rosenhart 29
Tabitha Kremesec 30
Terry Mongsene 31
Patrick Stephens 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:

Jodie Gibson
Lynne Bird
Diane Tussey
Dodi Horvath
Gail Williams
Shirley Soderer
Tabitha Kremesec
Hilary Oldenkamp
Angela Patterson
Tracey Ellifritz
Maggie Di Dio
Allen Davis

October 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10am Worship Pastor Bonnie's Sabbatical Presentation	2 6:30pm Al-Anon	3 5:30pm Family Program	4 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	5 1:00pm Exec. mtg. Fisk	6 10am The Wanderers Sm. Grp. in Murphys 12pm Women's AA	7
8 9am Adult Choir 10am Worship 11am OSJ mtg. EEC	9	10 3:30pm M&C meeting in Angels Camp 5:30 - 7:30pm South Grove Bunch Sm. Grp. EEC	11 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	12 9am - 4pm in Social Hall 2 - 4pm Book Club EEC	13 12pm Women's AA	14 Gail Withuhn memorial 3pm
15 10am Worship 11am Council mtg. EEC	16 6:30pm Al-Anon	17 10am Family Connections 5:30pm Cottage Circle Sm. Grp. 5:30pm Family Program	18 11am Knitters & Hookers 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	19	20 12pm Women's AA	21
22 9am Adult Choir 10am Worship Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields	23 6:30pm Al-Anon	24 10am Sm. Grp. in Murphys	25 11am Angels Angels Sm. Group 12:30pm AA & Al-Anon 6:30pm Al-Anon	26 2 - 4pm Book Club EEC	27 12pm Women's AA	28
29 10am Taizé worship service New Member Luncheon Sunday School activity	30 6:30pm Al-Anon	31				

God's love echoes through us to all creation.

Webpage: www.fccmurph.org

Email: nugget@fccmurph.org

Phone: (209)728-3141

OCTOBER 2023

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Murphys, CA 95247

509 N. Algiers Street

PO Box 48

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Congregational Church of Murphys

THE NUGGET



www.ucc.org

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

Treasurer Patty Hskell

Assistant Treasurer Shad Sundberg

Financial Secretary Gary Carson-Hull

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.